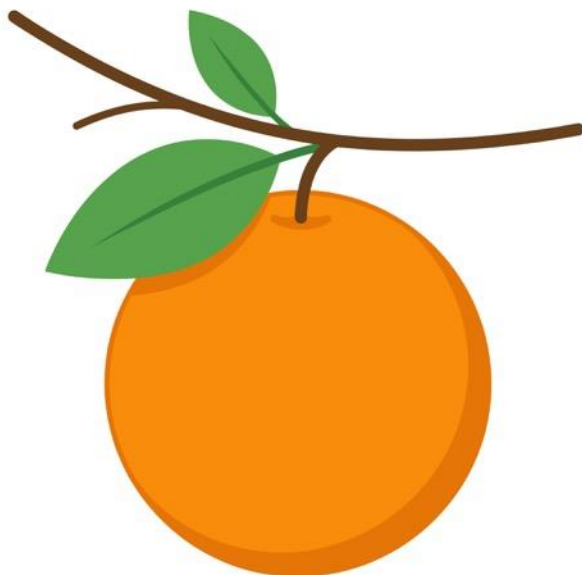


Express yourself creatively

Workshop 3
June 2026





Early bird activity

Find the rhyme

- [Play Twofer Goofer](#)
from [Merriam Webster Games and Quizzes](#)

Note: Each game generates an AI image.

- [Merriam Webster Rhyme Zone](#)

Note: There are lots of rhyming games online to explore but many of them require an account.



Links

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jJC5wqbj3QKGdqc7znZMCS91yeTQuVUdtrwINhwpII8/edit?usp=sharing>

Welcome

It is lovely to see you all.

To get us started,

- Share your “homework poem.”
- Or tell us your favourite place to learn about poetry.



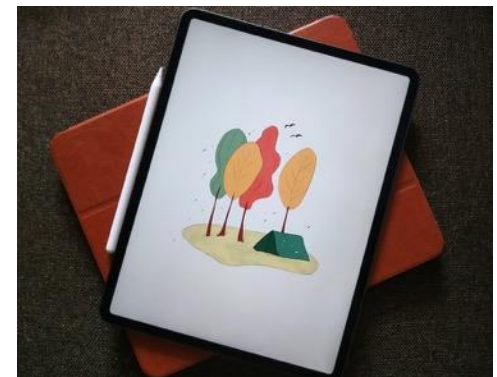
Learn together

Poetry helps us learn and grows our hearts

Today we are going to look at some ways we can learn about poetry by experiencing it in different formats.

We are going to look at

- how poetry gets in our hearts;
- places to read and hear poems;
- how reading poems, listening to poems and reading poems out loud help us to understand poetry.

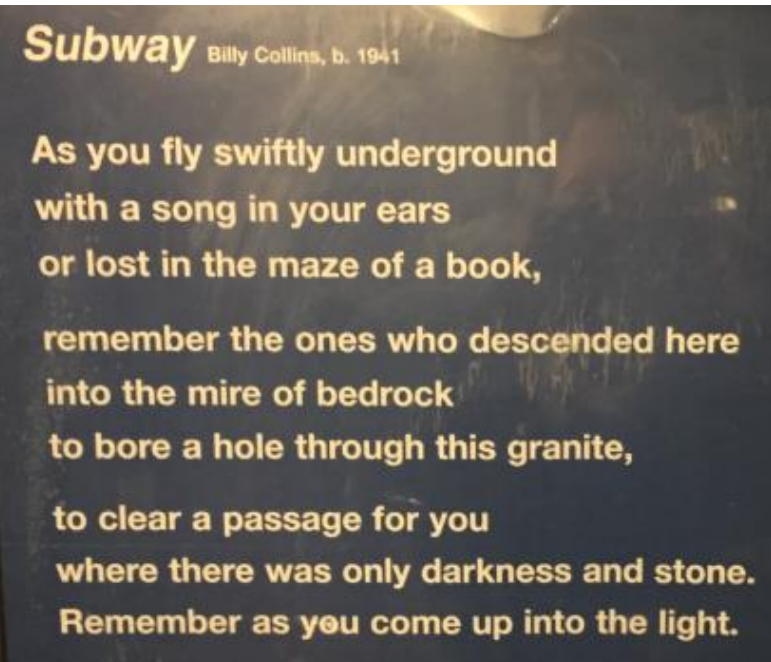


Why teach poetry?

Billy Collins's subway poem



A screenshot from a Washington Post [video](#).



Poetry in motion: "Subway" by Billy Collins

What poem stays in your heart?

For learners

I can't read by Lamont Carey



For teachers

Theme for English B by Langston Hughes



Theme for English B by Langston Hughes
at the Poetry Foundation

A favourite poem

How do poems get in our hearts?

Jacques Pépin, a chef from France, talks about why *Le Dormeur du Val/The Sleeper in the Valley* is his favourite poem and how he started reading poetry after he left school at a young age.

The Favourite Poem Project: <https://www.favoritepoem.org/poems/le-dormeur-du-val/>



The Sleeper in the Valley by Arthur Rimbaud



From [A Poem A Day: Le Dormeur du val Explanation](#)

It is a green hollow where a river sings

Madly catching on the grasses

Silver rags; where the sun shines from the proud mountain:

It is a small valley which bubbles over with rays.

A young soldier, his mouth open, his head bare,

And the nape of his neck bathing in the cool blue watercress,

Sleeps; he is stretched out on the grass, under clouds,

Pale on his green bed where the light rains down.

His feet in the gladiolas, he sleeps. Smiling as

A sick child would smile, he is taking a nap:

Nature, cradle him warmly: he is cold.

Odors do not make his nostrils quiver;

He sleeps in the sun, his hand on his breast,

Quieted. There are two red holes in his right side.

Characteristics



1. Does this poem reflect language's musical qualities? If so, how?
2. Does this poem use condensed language? If so, how?
3. Does this poem evoke an intense feeling? If so, how?
4. Does this poem comment on what it is to be human? If so, how?
5. Does this poem help us see what it is to be human in a new way? If so, how?

Questions: Reading poetry

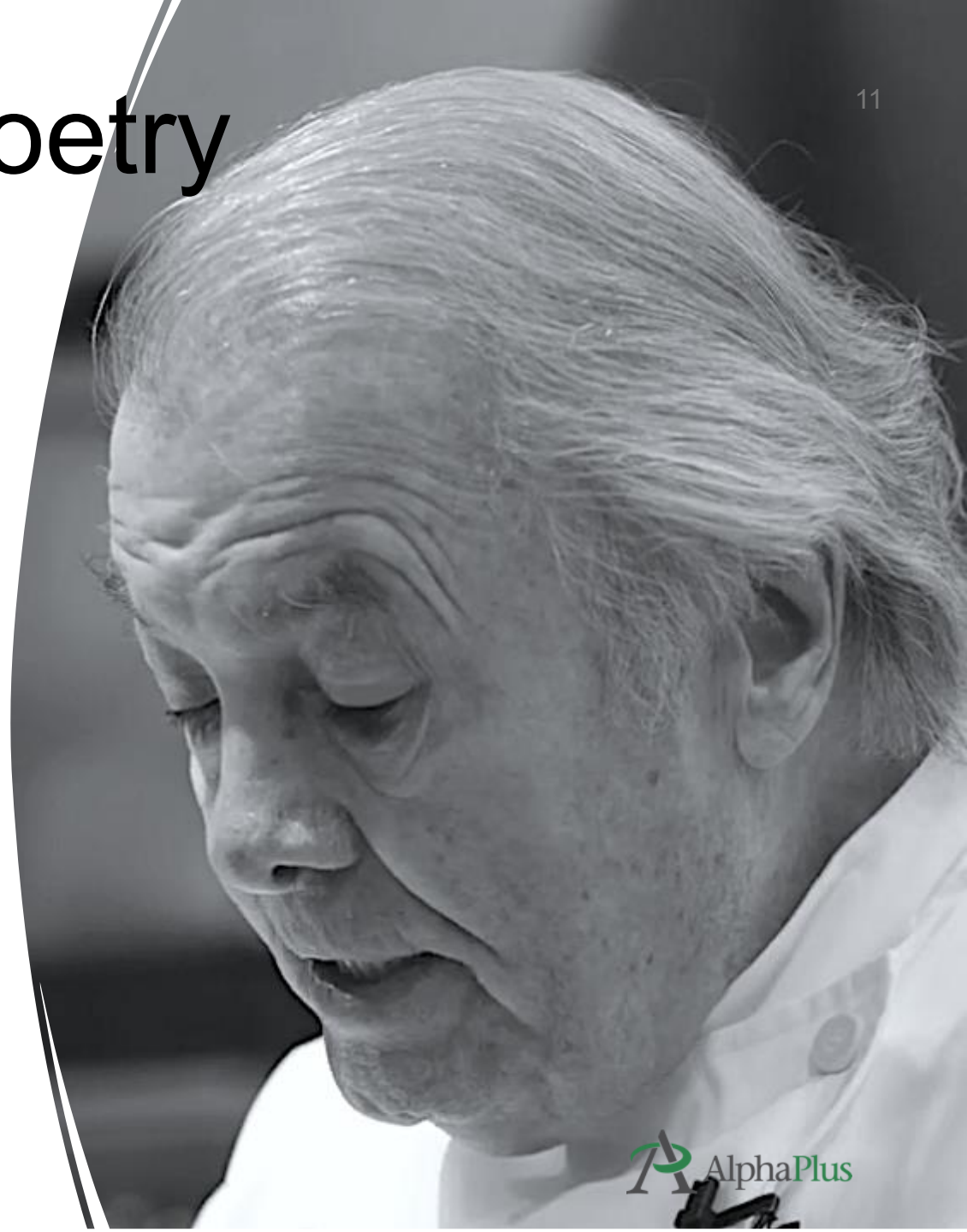
11

What makes Jacques Pépin start reading poetry? Why is poetry important to him?

Jean Paul Sartre was a philosopher and Camus was a writer. Have you ever met anyone who inspired you to learn something new?

Have you ever worked in a place that had a library for employees? How would that change things?

Jacques Pépin says that like some recipes, some poems do not age. What do you think of this idea?



Rhythm and metre



What do you think of when you hear the poem read out loud?

How does the rhythm and metre of this poem help us understand the feelings in this poem?

Does it sound different in French and in English?

[A description of rhythm and metre in poetry](#)

(Creative Writing Now)

Sonnet and rhyme

This poem is a [sonnet](#).

It has 14 lines divided into 2 quatrains (4-line stanzas) and 2 tercets (3-line stanzas).

The quatrain rhyming pattern is ABAB.

The tercets are a pair with this rhyming pattern: CCD, EED.

None of the English translations I can find follow this pattern.

[A description of rhyme schemes](#)

(Creative Writing Now)



Experience the poem



Read another translation here:

<https://allpoetry.com/the-sleeper-in-the-valley>

An animated version in French:

<https://youtu.be/bgHyMWk9N4w?si=5FrnOHY31vxqdz5>

Yves Montand sings the poem in French:

<https://youtu.be/UWAY3uTU3oA?si=gDPn7-8u1ktAQyTz>

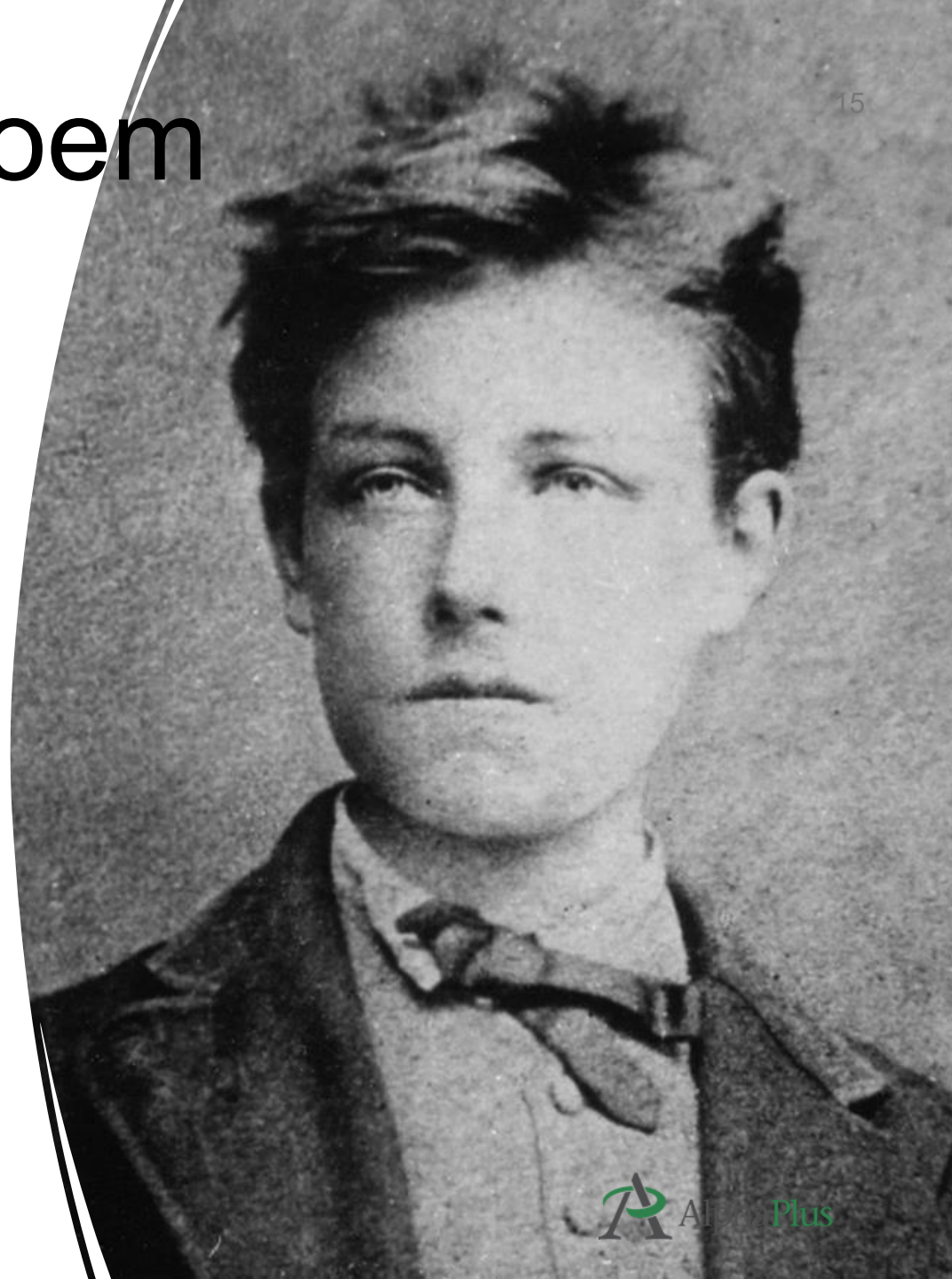
Questions: Favourite poem

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What does Jacques Pépin feel about this poem? Why does this poem resonate with him?

This poem was written during the the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, when Rimbaud was sixteen. How can modern people relate to it?

Would you add this poem to your favourite poems list?



Read lots of poems

Billy Collins says to learn poetry you need to read lots of poems.

We might not tackle the 10 books of Paradise Lost by John Milton or the 14 books Prelude by William Wordsworth in a literacy class, but where can we read poems?

How can literacy learners learn about poetry?

How can we support emergent readers in experiencing poems?



Text and video



Example: More poems about war

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae: [Text](#) and [Video](#)

The Long War by Laurie Lee: [Text](#) and [Video](#)

Attack by Siegfried Sassoon: [Text](#) and [Video](#)

[War Poetry Collection](#) at the [Poetry Foundation](#)

Scaffolded reading

Planting Our Poetry Garden at the Poetry Foundation

This is a collection of poems about plants, garden animals and gardening. It is designed as a collection for children but it can also be a great starter kit for people who love nature.

In each section, poems are presented in order of increasing reading level.

Some of these poems have audio support and many of them are available as spoken word on You Tube.



See more
collections here:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/browse>

Resources for teaching and learning

[Teaching Poetry Online](#) at the [Poetry Foundation](#)

This is a collection created during the COVID-19 lockdown. It is a selection of poetry teaching content from the Learn area of the site. The content has been organized by school level: elementary, middle school, high school and college or community college. In addition to content from the Poetry Foundation, there are resources from educational organizations listed as well.



Poetry Unbound podcast and Poetry Films

[Poetry Unbound](#) is a podcast where the host, Pádraig Ó Tuama, who has written [two books](#) for lovers of poetry, and for those who want to love poetry, presents an immersive exploration of a single poem. You can listen to the podcasts on this site.



The sister podcast, [On Being](#), has a [YouTube channel](#) that includes a [Poetry Films playlist](#): a collection of animated poetry readings: “Poems to carry you through, love by, grow into. Films, readings, magic.”

Poetry Unbound transcripts

The podcasts include transcripts. Here is something about writing poetry for the [Benjamin Zephaniah](#) podcast:

“I’m fascinated by how different professions carry with them very different vocabularies. I’ve got a friend who is a builder, and he was saying to me that what he really wants to do is to write poems. But I was saying to him, what an amazing resource and archive of vocabulary he’ll have about building that hardly any other poet would know how to include.”



[Women in
Trades](#) from
[The Westcoast
Reader](#)

Reciting poetry

We have shared links to Poetry in Voice [lesson plans](#) in the workshops. The organization started as a [poetry recitation contest](#) for Canadian high school students.

On the [video page](#), you can browse and search videos of students reciting classic and modern poems

They also have a [YouTube channel](#).



Reading poems out loud

[Ten Poems Students Love to Read Out Loud](#)
at the [Poetry Foundation](#)

“Performing a poem can offer pleasures unlike any other experience of literature. ... approaching a poem as a script for an oral performance demands that students pay attention to aspects of the work that they aren’t used to looking for. I’ve put together a list of sonically rich poems with strong narrative hooks—and a few performance tips that will point students in the high school and college classroom and beyond to the pleasures of reciting poetry.”



Reading poems by literacy learners

I can't read – by Lamont Carey

The Westcoast Reader

Diamond Poems (Diamante format)

[Poetry in Voice lesson plan](#)

[RWT Interactives](#)

[Poetry templates](#)

Haiku Poems

[Poetry in Voice lesson plan](#)

[RWT Interactives](#)

[Poetry templates](#)

Poems by students (based on The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman)

[Poetry in Voice lesson plan](#)

[Amanda Gorman reads inauguration poem, 'The Hill We Climb'](#)

[Amanda Gorman - The Hill We Climb Animation](#)

[Amanda Gorman on the Two Emotions Behind Every Writer's Block || MasterClass](#)



Canadian poets

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Here are some places to find Canadian content.

[The Poetry Foundation Canada section](#)

[Canadian Poetry online](#) from the University of Toronto Library

- [Canadian Poets, Contemporary](#)
- [Canadian Poets, 19th Century](#)
- [Representative Poetry Online](#) (an online textbook of poems in the public domain originally published in 1912 and last revised in 1963)

[Best Canadian Poems](#) (also other nations)

[5 Poems to Read on Truth and Reconciliation Day](#)

The [Indigenous Poets](#), [Poetic Resilience](#) and [Tied to the Land](#) lesson plans from Poetry in Voice include lists of poems by indigenous people available to read on their website.

Write a Poem about Canada

[A Taste of Canada](#)
Poetry in Voice Lesson plan

[Summer Idioms](#) from
The Westcoast Reader

What do you know about poetry?

<https://jeopardylabs.com/play/poetry-warm-up>

Figurative Language = 1

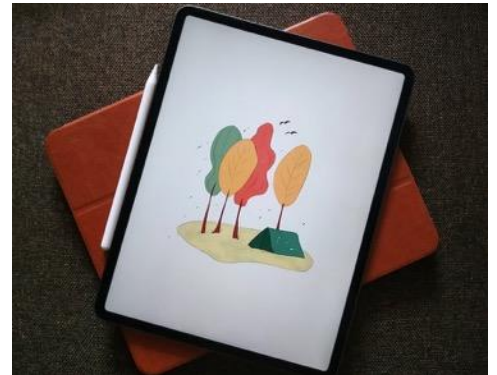
Idiom Addict = 2

Authors Purpose = 3

Figurative language identification. = 4

Poetry = 5

Tell me which question you would like to answer. For example, if you want Poetry for 400, type 5 @ 400.



Make your own quiz

Make your own quiz: <https://jeopardylabs.com/>

It's \$20 for a lifetime membership but you can use it for free. Give your game a password in case you need to edit it.

Other options:

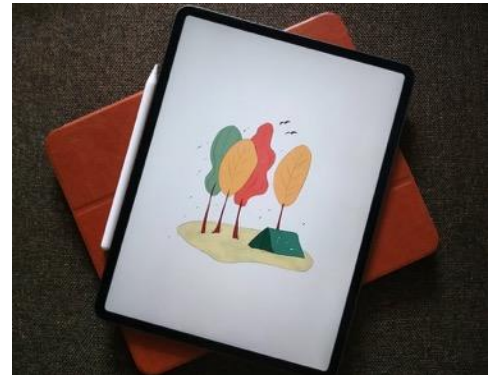
[Poetry games at Factile](#)

(You can make 3 games on a free account.)

Templates

[Slides template](#)

[Slides, Canva and PowerPoint templates](#)





Next

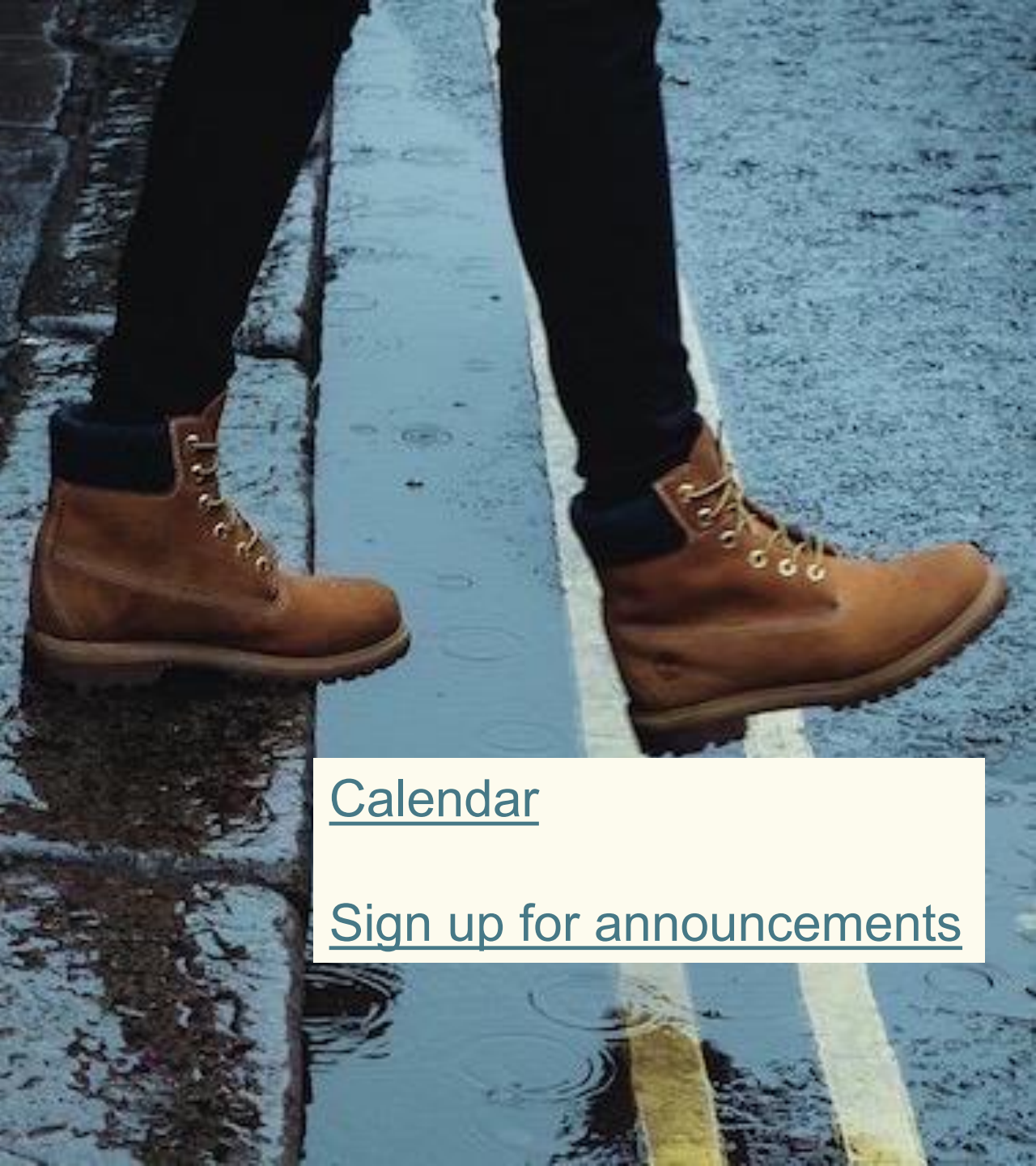
Homework 😊

Have a fantastic summer reading,
listening to, reciting, and/or writing poetry.

Feedback:

Please fill out our feedback form:

<https://forms.gle/VHEQHSsfn6wRiNmRA>



Next at AlphaPlus

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Workshop Series (Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00)

- October 7, 14, 21
- November 18, 25, December 2
- January 13, 20, 27
- February 24, and March 3, 10

Virtual Showcases (Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30)

- September 29
- October 27

Lunch and Learn (Tuesdays 12:30 – 1:00)

- September 22
- November 3
- January 5
- February 9

Calendar

Sign up for announcements

Thank you

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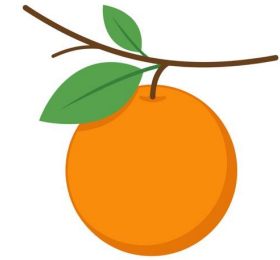


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By Étienne Carjat - Close-up from Arthur Rimbaud [1872] - foto de Étienne Carjat, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=13053586>



<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/tips-for-reading-poetry-from-billy-collins>