



# WILD WORDS

Getting started





## **Welcome, writers!**

**In this guide, we'll explore the wonderful world of nature poetry.**

**Imagine co-writing a poem with a tree, a river, or even the rain! We'll help you tap into your creative spirit and connect with the natural world around you.**

**Get set for a poetic adventure!**



## **Part 1: Meet your co-authors**

**First, let's get to know nature better. That means we'll take a really good look at animals, plants, and things like the weather. This will help us understand them more and decide who our co-author will be.**

### **Go on a Nature Walk**

Take a walk in a park, your backyard, or at school. Bring a notebook and something to write with. Stop and look around – at plants, bugs, birds, or even the clouds. Write down what you see. How fast do they move? What sounds do they make? How do they act?

### **Talk to Nature**

Pick a plant, animal, or another natural thing like a stream. Imagine you're interviewing it. What questions would you ask? How do you think it would answer? What feelings do you think it might have?

### **Quietly Observe**

Find a comfy spot outside, like under a tree or on a big rock. Sit quietly for 5-10 minutes and just watch and listen. What can you see, hear, smell, and feel? Write down what you notice, trying to use all your five senses.

### **Capture the Moment**

Use a camera, your phone, or a sketchbook to take pictures of plants, animals, and beautiful places that you like. Get close-up photos of things like leaves, feathers, spiderwebs, or tree bark. How do they look different when they're really close up?



## Part 2: Getting creative

**Now that you've met your co-authors, it's time to start writing your poem. Poetry can take many forms. Here are some fun exercises to help you choose a style:**

### Mood

Choose a feeling your co-author might have, like feeling happy, sad, or excited. Write a poem that fits that feeling. For example, if your co-author is a tree feeling peaceful, you can use gentle words that flow smoothly.

### Senses

Imagine how your co-author experiences the world using their five senses – sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. What do you think the world looks like to a river? What might the world feel like to a cloud? Use words or phrases that describe these senses.

### Movement

Imagine you're a tree swaying in the wind, raindrops falling from the sky, or a bird soaring high above. Then, act it out. Think about the shapes and movements you make. How could you describe these in words?

### Sound Words

In poetry, you can use words that sound like the things they describe. If your co-author is a tree, you might say its 'leaves whisper' to show how the leaves make soft sounds. You can also use sound words for actions. If your co-author is a river, maybe it 'gurgles'.



## Definitions

### 'Co-author'

A co-author is someone, or something, you work with to create something – like writing a poem together.

### 'Cross-species'

Cross-species poetry is when you work together with a plant, animal, or natural thing to write a poem from its point of view.

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