



# Map of Fun

Naomi Shihab Nye

Where did my feet walk today?  
Did they step on a cloud, or into a sea?  
Did a smooth wooden floor  
welcome their beat?  
They slid through the grass,  
they stepped on a stone.  
I dashed up the stairs.  
My cat bit my toe.  
I slid in the hall.  
I splashed in a bath.  
My fabulous feet felt it all.  
Now they are curling under the sheet.  
Tomorrow I will dance and run.  
Skip and hop. Twirl and leap.  
Feet always find the map of fun  
and follow it.  
But now, they rest,  
they rest.



# City Rain

Rachel Field

Rain in the city!  
I love to see it fall  
Slantwise where the buildings crowd  
Red brick and all.  
Streets of shiny wetness  
Where the taxis go,  
With people and umbrellas all  
Bobbing to and fro.

Rain in the city!  
I love to hear it drip  
When I am cosy in my room  
Snug as any ship,  
With toys spread on the table,  
With a picture book or two,  
And the rain like a rumbling tune that sings  
Through everything I do.



These poems are about the world around us.  
What places could you write a poem about?

Suitable for 7-9 years

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# Growing

Tony Mitton

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Today  
you may be small.  
But one day  
you'll be tall,  
like me,  
maybe taller.  
You won't  
fit into your bed.  
Your hat  
won't fit on your head.  
Your feet will fill up the floor.  
You'll have to bend down  
to come through the door.  
You'll be able to reach  
on the highest shelf,  
(and I can't do that now,  
myself).

Out in the country  
the tallest trees  
will scratch your ankles  
and tickle your knees.  
Up in the clouds,  
yes, way up there,  
the eagles will nest  
in your craggy hair.  
But they'd better soon find  
a safer place  
because soon your head  
will be up in space.

So I hope you won't be too proud  
to bend down  
and say hello  
to your old home-town.  
And I hope it won't drive you  
utterly mad  
to visit your tiny  
Mum and Dad.



This poem is about growing up.  
How does it make you feel?

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# Starting to write

2

Collect words for your poems that make you stop and think. Poets use as few words as possible and choose each one carefully.

3

Copy out a favorite poem to get a feel for how it works. Could you write something in the same style?

1

Reading is the best way to become a poet! So read as many poems as you can—it will help you write your own.

If you would like to try writing your own poems, here are some easy tips for getting started.

4

Now write a poem in whatever way you like. Then change ONE line or word in it. This helps you think about your idea in a different way.

5

Finally, read your poem aloud to a friend or your family. Their feedback will help you improve. Now write some more poems!



# Next steps

Once you've begun writing poems, write LOTS of them. Some will be wonderful and others you'll forget. Here are some techniques to try.

Write a poem that rhymes. You can use rhyme at the end of the lines, in the middle, or just occasionally.

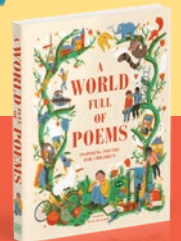
Try writing a poem that repeats a word or a line more than once to emphasize it.

Experiment with free verse. You could try to develop a rhythm, but don't worry about rhyme.



Try writing a poem that has a simile, by using "like" or "as" to describe or compare something with something you might not expect.

Use alliteration to repeat the same consonant sound at the beginning of many words for emphasis.



Read these handy tips before writing a poem of your very own!

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# Write your own poem!



After reading the previous pages for inspiration and handy tips, try writing your very own poem! Think about what style your poem might be in and what you might make it about. If you need ideas, read below about what other poets have written their poems about.

**Feelings:** Poets have a gift for capturing all the different emotions we feel - happiness, fear, anger, frustration, and more.



**Family and Friends:** For many of us, life is all about family and friends. Poetry can help us explore these different human relationships.

**Science and Art:** Poems can explore the scientific world, raise searching questions, and show us how to wonder, marvel, and be curious and creative.



**Fun and Games:** Some poems put life's simplest pleasures into words, from riding a bike to flying a kite.



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