

Poetry Now!

Letter poem

Sample Poem

Desert

Even in heat,
even in blasted sand,
even in dry bones,
you sparkle with life.

Do you ever feel burnt
or scratchy?
Or do you welcome
the wind
that sends each
grain of sand skittering?

Earth,
do you love your dry places
as much as your
watery ones?
Your tropics
as much as your ice?

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Poetry Idea

The poems in my book *Hello, Earth!* are called “Letter” poems. They are poems written to someone or something, whether they can answer or not.

1. For this poetry exercise, choose an object in the natural world: wind, sunshine, puddle, tree, ant—anything! Take a field trip outside to observe your object if you can. If your object is small (and doesn’t crawl around), keep it next to you as you write.

2. Study your object closely: What colors and shapes do you see? How does it feel, smell, or sound? What does it remind you of? Write down any words or phrases that come to your mind.

3. Think about why it's important. What kind of life has it led? How is it beautiful? What have you always wanted to know about it?

4. Write a poem addressed to your object:

- Start with a **compliment**: "Dear leaf: your bumpy veins look just like a tiny tree."
- Then ask a **question**: "Does the wind tickle you when it blows?"
- End with a **wish**: "I wish I could live on your branch and whisper leafy secrets to you."

4. Feel free to include more than one compliment, question, or wish in your poem!

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