

POETRY NOW!

Color or “Synesthesia” poem

Green is new
in spring. Shy.
Green peeks from buds,
trembles in the breeze.
Green floats through rain-dark trees,
and glows, mossy-soft, at my feet.
Green drips from tips of leaves
 onto Pup’s nose.

In spring,
even the rain tastes Green.

JOYCE SIDMAN

© Joyce Sidman. This poem is from my book *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*, published in 2009.

Poetry Idea

Can rain taste green? It does to me, in springtime. Try some experiments. Bite into an apple. What color does it **taste** like? Listen to the crickets at night or the wind blowing through trees; what color does that **sound** like? You are using “synesthesia”, or a mixing of the senses. To write a **Synesthesia Poem**, try the following:

1. Choose a color you really like. It can be a simple color (red) or it can be something fancy, like chartreuse or magenta or indigo.
2. Using each of the five senses, write about your chosen color: “Yellow **looks** like the sun beaming through a window. Yellow **smells** like toast with honey on it . . .” etc. Try to be as specific as possible: not just “yellow **feels** like butter” but “yellow feels like a single drip of melted butter trickling down your chin from an ear of corn.”
3. End your poem with a line that includes your own emotions about this color: “On my yellow days, I snuggle with my cat, warm and cozy on the windowseat.”

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