

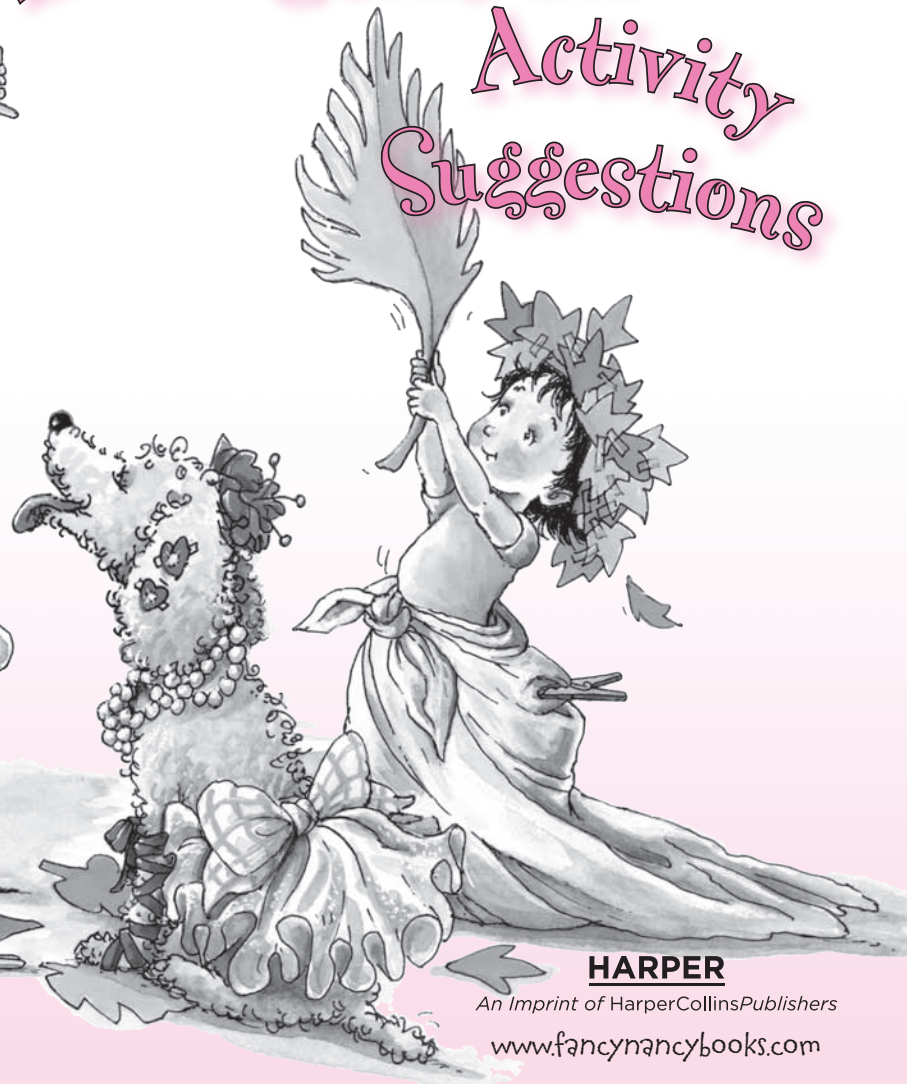
Everything's fancier when it's written in verse!

Fancy



NANCY

Event Guide and
Activity
Suggestions



ILLUSTRATIONS © BY ROBIN PRESS GLISSER

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Bonjour, well-read friends!

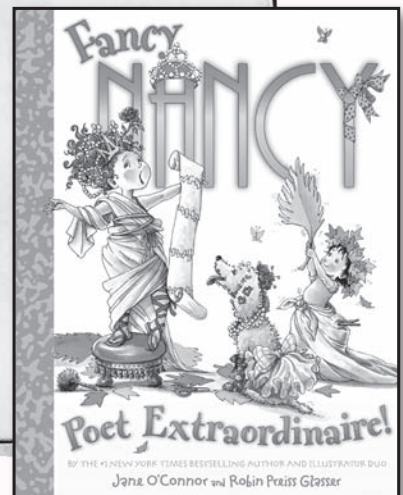
As you likely know, April is National Poetry Month—the time of year when everyone who loves to read, write, and recite poetry comes together in celebration of those very splendid things. And, since nobody appreciates words and a party with a posh theme more than Fancy Nancy Clancy, it seems that we've found the perfect muse!

With *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* as our inspiration, we've composed (that's fancy for created) the enclosed event kit to help you host the most magnificent poetry bash for your own budding bards. The kit, complete with suggestions, reproducibles, and giveaways, has everything you need to explore language and verse with young children.

So, set aside time to rhyme; get ready to do haiku; and let yourself go with the flow of emotion and enjoyment that comes with learning and loving poetry!


Happy hosting, lyrical lovelies!


*HarperCollins Children's Books
Marketing Department Poetesses*




EVENT SUGGESTIONS


To make your poetry party truly splendiferous, simply follow these smart suggestions from our favorite fancy poetess, Nancy Clancy. She and best friend, Bree, take time each day after school to write some verse, because crafting the perfect poem takes practice and patience!

 **Make sure the troupe is in the loop:** Use the template in this booklet to create customized event invitations to distribute in the weeks leading up to your poetry party. Fill in the event details, photocopy, cut along the dotted lines, and send the invitations to everyone on your guest list. Consider sealing each envelope with an initial sticker (think: “N” for Nancy) for a touch of literary flair!

 **Keep your eyes on the supplies:** Be sure to stock up on the key tools needed for hosting a perfect poetry party. Each guest should be given a small notebook and writing implement (that’s fancy for a pen or pencil) to use during the event and to take home afterward. To create inexpensive journals, cut plain pink paper into quarters, gather several sheets together, punch two holes on the left side (with a hole punch), thread with ribbon, and tie ribbon into a bow. Decorate top sheet with stickers or fancy words to make a cover.

 **Ensure that the event space is appealing from floor to ceiling:** Tailor the event space to your theme by hanging photocopied pictures of famous poets and their poems (those that are illustrated are best). Write out a beloved poem of your own, using butcher paper and paint, to create a large border for the room. Displaying books of poetry throughout the space will help add character (that’s fancy for charm) and inspiration.

 **Greeting guests is best:** Being a gracious hostess is essential! Greet each of your guests personally upon their arrival and introduce them to one another, so that everyone feels welcome. Make personalized name tags for guests, using the template in this booklet.

 **Rhyme time:** Read aloud from the anthology section of *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* to showcase poetry’s role as performance and entertainment. Explain to your guests that reciting poetry from the page or from memory has been a tradition in many households around the country for centuries (that’s fancy for a long, long time). Ask one or more of the older children in the group to read one of the simpler poems. Encourage them to be expressive, to enunciate their words, and to address the audience. It might also be fun (and educational) to invite a local poet to do a reading of his or her work. Have your guests give each speaker a standing ovation to show their appreciation!



DELIGHT IN AN INVITE

Use these delightful invitations to let everyone know about your upcoming poetry party. Simply fill in the details, photocopy, cut along the dotted lines, and distribute to as many people as you'd like.

YOU'RE INVITED to a very posh
poetry party!

Place: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

R.S.V.P.: _____

Please come dressed in your most dramatic party attire:
an outfit adorned with bows, bells, and baubles will surely inspire!



YOU'RE INVITED to a very posh
poetry party!

Place: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____

R.S.V.P.: _____

Please come dressed in your most dramatic party attire:
an outfit adorned with bows, bells, and baubles will surely inspire!



POET *Extraordinaire!*

My nom de plume is:



Illustrations © Robin Preiss Glasser

POET *Extraordinaire!*

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POET *Extraordinaire!*

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Illustrations © Robin Preiss Glasser

POETRY PREP



Even great writers need to brush up on the basics. Before you begin crafting your poetic masterpiece, review the terms below and match them to their meanings. Draw a straight line from each word to its corresponding definition, once you've identified the correct match.

Verse

A short poem that expresses personal feelings

Couplet

A line of poetry; a stanza

Rhyme

A source of inspiration

Synonym

A pen name; a fictitious name adopted by an author

Nom de plume

Two lines of poetry that follow in order and form a unit

Bard

A collection of literary works

Muse

A word having the same or almost the same meaning as another word

Ode

Close similarity in the final sounds of two or more words or lines of poetry

Anthology

A person who writes poetry



Writing Warm-Up

A terrific way to prepare for poetry and prevent writer's block (that's fancy for running out of good ideas) is to do some simple word play as a warm-up activity. Try these exercises the next time you get stuck and need inspiration. Select your favorite describing word and write down all the words that have the same meaning. Then think of all the words that rhyme with your first word (and its synonyms). Repeat with more words, and before you know it you'll be a proficient poet!

Source: Definitions adapted from Merriam-Webster's Word Central © 2007 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated.

NAME GAME

In *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* Ms. Glass shows Nancy and her classmates how to make poems with the letters in their names. Compose your own name poem, using the tips and example below as your guide. Try it with your first name, last name, and *nom de plume*!

- ♥ In your poetry notebook, write your name in big block letters in one long vertical column.
- ♥ Think of some adjectives (that's fancy for describing words) that begin with the letters of your name. The words should give details about who you are and the things you like.
- ♥ Select your favorite adjectives and write them next to the correct letters in your name.
- ♥ Draw a picture of yourself to illustrate the words you've chosen for an even more poetic finished product!



Poetry Upgrade

Once you've mastered the name game technique, take it to the next level and go straight to the head of the class. Try to make the lines rhyme or pick a difficult subject word to write about. Here are some suggestions: inspiration, imagination, superb, and refreshments.

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LANGUAGE LESSON



All aspiring authors absolutely must make use of the professional poets' traditional tools. Here are some easy exercises to help you learn two such techniques: **alliteration** and **onomatopoeia** (on-eh-ma-toe-pee-ah). Aim to add these devices into your writing repertoire.

Alliteration: Repetition of the same letter (or sound) at the beginning of two or more neighboring words. For example, "Fancy Nancy dresses divinely for every event she atends."

Underline the alliteration in the sentences below:

- ♥ Bree brings bunches of bright berries and gorgeous grapes for some scrumptious snacking.
- ♥ Nancy knows never to talk too much when writing rousing rhymes in the Palace of Poetry.

Finish the following sentences by adding alliterative words to each empty line:

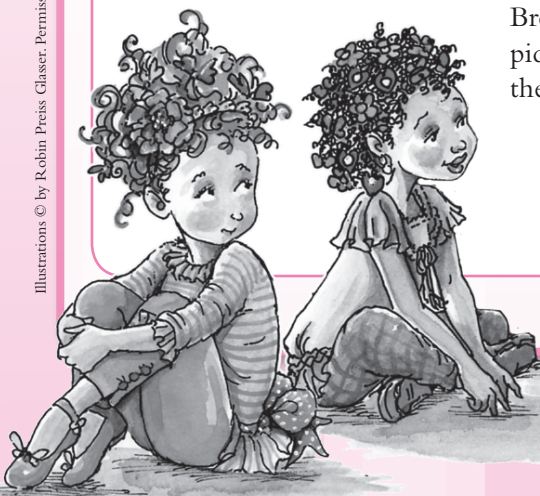
- ♥ Fabulous friends _____.
- ♥ Beautiful butterflies _____.
- ♥ Silly sounds _____.

Onomatopoeia: A word or phrase that sounds like the thing or action it stands for. Examples of onomatopoeia are: buzz, pop, sizzle, zoom, hiss, click, hum, itch, knock, meow, and moo.

- ♥ Make a list of all the onomatopoeia words you can think of. Select words that sound just like the thing or action they name, such as drip drop, choo-choo, ding-dong, and beep beep.
- ♥ Write three sentences using one or more of the words from your list. Insert the onomatopoeia words for emphasis (that's fancy for importance) to enhance your meaning.
- ♥ Rewrite each sentence using a different onomatopoeia word. Then review the new sentences and see if the meaning has changed.
- ♥ Find examples of onomatopoeia in the comic strip section of the newspaper and in magazine advertisements. Seeing samples in daily life will help bring the concept home.

Bree's poem about hiccups includes an onomatopoeia word. Can you pick out the onomatopoeia in the opening couplet? Circle it below and then read *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* to learn how the poem ends!

Hic hic hiccups
Make my tummy jump in and out.



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DAZZLING DIAMOND

A **diamante** is a short seven-line poem written in the shape of a diamond. Two one-word nouns with opposite meanings form the basis of this brilliant style, where much is revealed in the end. Use the guidelines and template below to craft your own jewel of a diamond poem!

Line 1: Select a noun (the name of a person, place, or thing) as the subject of your poem.

Make sure that you know the word's opposite (or antonym), as you'll need to use it soon.

Line 2: Write down two adjectives that describe your subject word or top noun.

Line 3: Pick three verbs (action words) that end in "ing" and tell what the top noun does.

Line 7: Write down the noun that is the opposite of your subject word or top noun.

Line 6: Fill in two adjectives that describe the bottom noun or second "secret" subject.

Line 5: Add three verbs that end in "ing" and tell what the bottom noun does.

Line 4: Name four things that have to do with both the top and bottom nouns. Or name two things related to the top noun, followed by two things related to the bottom noun.

Helpful Hint: Use a different color marker or crayon for the words that go with the top noun, so that you can distinguish them (that's fancy for tell them apart) from those related to the bottom noun.

My Diamond Poem

_____, _____

_____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____

_____, _____

Butterflies
Graceful, playful
Flying, fluttering, flapping
Beauty, whimsy, silk nests, foliage
Chomping, chewing, crunching
Fuzzy, leggy
Caterpillars



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HAIKU IN A FEW



The **haiku**, an ancient (that's fancy for really old) form of Japanese poetry, consists of three short lines with the middle line slightly longer than the other two. The lines do not have to rhyme, but they should be about something in nature and convey an emotion. Follow these simple steps to learn how to do haiku and then test your new talent using the blank lines below.

- ♥ Select the season in which you want your poem to be set and then make a glossary (that's fancy for list) of words that describe the season. Include words for sounds, sights, and smells.
- ♥ Next, choose an event, person, or object from your life to be the subject of your poem.
- ♥ Recite the sample haiku provided below. Can you tell what the poems were written about? Can you imagine what the author was thinking and feeling while writing them?
- ♥ Be your own critic and be prepared to revise your work. Once you've written your poem, read it aloud. Does it paint a clear picture of your topic? Does it express an emotion?



Sitting soundly atop the trees
Puffy, fluffy, fleecy, floating, flying...
Big damp drops teem and stream

What am I?

Yellow fellow
Buzzing happily near the sweet bud...
Juicy sticky nectar

What am I?

My Haiku

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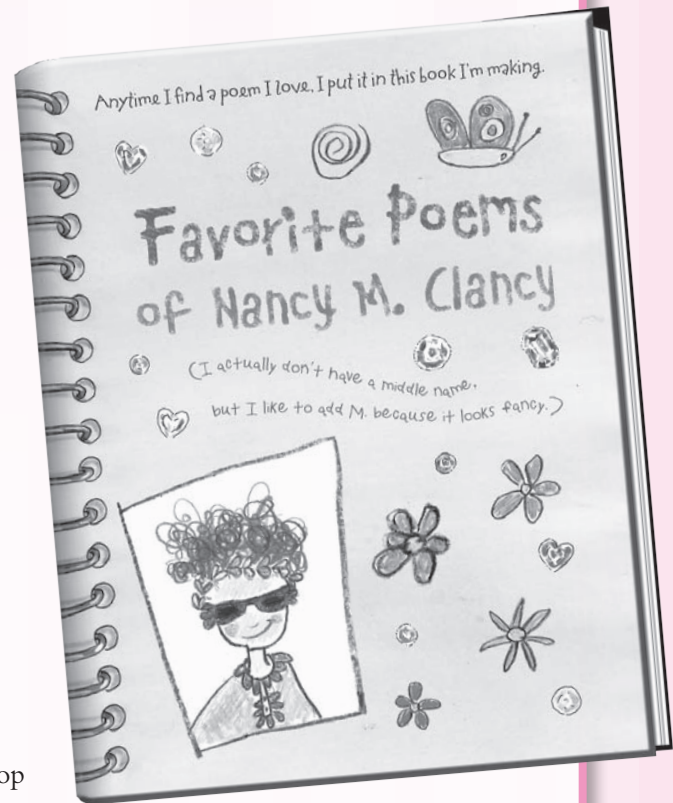
Since Nancy thinks that poetry is pretty sensational, she decides in *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* to collect her favorite pieces in one place. Borrow her idea and make your own proper anthology of poems, using the suggestions provided below.

Suggested Materials:

- ♥ Ten sheets of plain letter-size paper
- ♥ Two pieces of thick colored paper (card stock)
- ♥ Stapler
- ♥ Stickers
- ♥ Crayons, markers, or color pencils
- ♥ Best pen with plume

Instructions:

- ♥ Stack plain paper and line up edges.
- ♥ To create a sturdy cover, add card stock to both the top and bottom of the pile.
- ♥ Staple the left border of the book in three places to fasten pages together.
- ♥ Decorate the front cover with stickers and artwork. Then create a title for your anthology and insert it in fancy lettering. For example, "Favorite Poems of Nancy M. Clancy."
- ♥ To gather entries for your tome (that's fancy for book), survey your parents, friends, classmates, and neighbors. Ask them to name their favorite poem and its author.
- ♥ Using your best pen with plume, write out each poem by hand. Add your own illustrations and notes to the page, to keep track of your thoughts and feelings about each piece.
- ♥ Explore and include all styles of poetry: nursery rhymes; songs and their lyrics; limericks; classical poetry; romantic poetry; nature poetry; odes; puns; diamantes; haiku; and more!
- ♥ As your anthology expands, so too will your knowledge of poetry. Share your collection with others and spread the love of language!



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MARK THE MONTH

Don't let family and friends forget National Poetry Month (it's in April). Use the greeting card template below to remind everyone on your mailing list!

- ♥ Color the image of Fancy Nancy, adding your own embellishment (that's fancy for decoration) to the background.
- ♥ Ask an adult to help you cut around the dotted lines, make color copies of your creation, paste or tape onto card stock, and place each card in an envelope.
- ♥ Remember to personalize the cards with your signature before you send!



IT'S POETRY MONTH!

Poetry is sensational
and should be admired,
Read one poem per day this month...
even if you're tired!

With love from Fancy Nancy and
