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## Poetry Spotlight - Spring Issue

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April is National Poetry Month, and in honor of it, I'd like to share some of my favorite poems that help empower me and give me the energy to power through to the end of the school year. Please allow the poems that follow to calm and inspire you.

"The Rose That Grew from the Concrete" is a poem by Tupac about overcoming adversity, finding strength in the face of hard times, and thriving even when the odds are stacked against you. Here it is:

### **"The Rose That Grew from the Concrete" by Tupac Shakur**

Did you hear about the rose that *grew*  
from a crack in the *concrete*?  
Proving nature's law is wrong *it*  
learned to walk without having *feet*.  
Funny it seems, but by keeping its *dreams*,  
it learned to breathe fresh *air*.  
Long live the rose that grew from *concrete*  
When no one else ever cared.



Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" is about staying strong, never giving up, and standing tall even when others try to bring you down. It shows how Black people and anyone who has faced unfair treatment can rise above challenges. The poem is full of confidence and hope, reminding us that no matter what happens, we can keep moving forward and succeed.

**"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou**

You may write me down in history  
With your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
But still, like dust, I'll rise.  
Does my sassiness upset you?  
Why are you beset with gloom?  
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells  
Pumping in my living room.  
Just like moons and like suns,  
With the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.  
Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?  
Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.  
You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.  
Does my sexiness upset you?  
Does it come as a surprise  
That I dance like I've got diamonds  
At the meeting of my thighs?  
Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain  
I rise  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.  
Leaving behind nights of terror and fear  
I rise  
Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear  
I rise  
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.  
I rise.  
I rise.



Edgar Albert Guest's "It Couldn't Be Done" is about never giving up, believing in yourself, and proving others wrong. It tells people to stay positive and keep trying, even when others say something can't be done. The poem teaches that with hard work and confidence, you can accomplish anything.

#### **"It Couldn't Be Done" by Edgar Albert Guest**

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But he with a chuckle replied  
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,  
And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure,  
There are thousands to point out to you one by one  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing  
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.



And finally, "Dreams" by Langston Hughes reminds us to never give up on our dreams, because without them, life can feel empty or sad. It encourages people to keep dreaming, even when things are hard.

**"Dreams" by Langston Hughes**

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

So, in this season of rebirth, turn to these poems if you feel like you need a fresh start, a pep talk, or just want to lose yourself in the quiet calm poetry can provide.

Tab 2

## **Summer Plans: How to Make the Most of Yours summer Break**

**By : Jamarion coleman**

Summer is right around the corner, and after a long school year, most of us are ready for a break. Know you can sleep chill and enjoy some time off, summer is also a chance to do things that are fun *and* helpful for your future

### **Take Time to Chill**

After all the tests, homework, and stress, we all need a break. Sleep in, hang out with friends, watch shows, or just chill and the house

### **Get a Job or Make Some Money**

Summer is a time to find a job or do something to get some money. Whether working at a fast food place, summer programs ,or mowing lawns, it's a good way to save up and learn some responsibility. And having your own money feels great.

### **Go Somewhere New or Just Get Out**

You don't have to go on a big vacation to have fun. Go to the beach, the mall, or even a local park with friends. But if you do get the chance to travel, enjoy it and make the most of it.

### **Try Something New**

Summer is also the best time to try something new . Start a new hobby, learn something u never did before you never know what you can be good at.

### **Get Ready for the Real World**



**Summer is the perfect time to get better at real-life things . If you're a junior or senior, you should start getting ready to live on your own someday. That means learning things like cooking, cleaning, or saving your money. Even small things can help you feel prepared.**

**No matter what you do just make sure you have a good summer. Whether you're working, traveling, or just chillin take time for yourself and have fun before school starts again.**