



# Poetry Recitation & Copywork

## Poetry Selections

Our featured poet for this session is Johann Wolfgang Goethe, a polymath that lived throughout the late Enlightenment era into the Romanticism movement. We've included six poetry selections for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

- Rosebud in the Heather
- Found
- Wanderer's Night Song
- May Song
- Autumn Feelings
- The Sorcerer's Apprentice

For copywork, we have included Zaner-Bloser style handwriting sheets for primary, elementary, and cursive, as well as college-ruled for older students. We have chosen four poems, listed below:

- Found
- Wanderer's Night Song
- May Song
- Autumn Feelings

*"A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul."*

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



## Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

August 28, 1749 - March 22, 1832

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832) was one of the greatest writers of the Age of Enlightenment and the period that followed. He was born in Frankfurt, Germany, into a well-educated and supportive family.

From a young age, he showed a deep love for learning, studying literature, languages, science, and the arts. He later studied law, but his true passion was writing.

As a young man, he gained sudden fame with his novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, which captured the emotions and struggles of his generation.

Goethe lived during a time of great intellectual and cultural change. While he was influenced by Enlightenment ideas such as reason and the study of nature, he also helped shape a movement that valued emotion, imagination, and personal experience. His writing often reflects a balance between careful observation of the world and a deep appreciation for beauty, creativity, and the inner life of the human spirit. In addition to poetry and novels, he was also interested in science and studied plants, colors, and natural forms, showing his belief that truth could be found both in reason and in nature.

One of Goethe's most important works is *Faust*, a dramatic poem that tells the story of a man searching for meaning and knowledge. Through this and many of his shorter poems, Goethe explored themes such as ambition, temptation, love, nature, and the pursuit of truth. His poetry ranges from simple and peaceful reflections on nature to powerful and dramatic stories filled with tension and emotion.

Goethe's influence extended far beyond literature. Many of his poems were set to music by great composers, including Franz Schubert, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Johannes Brahms. These musical settings helped bring his words to life in a new way, combining poetry and music to express feeling and meaning. Songs such as "The Erlking" became especially well known through these compositions.

Throughout his life, Goethe also served in government and was involved in cultural leadership in the city of Weimar, where he spent many of his later years. He continued to write, study, and reflect on life until his death in 1832. Today, he is remembered as a writer who brought together the ideas of reason and imagination, helping people see both the order of the world and the beauty within it.

**Bonus:**

Although our featured composer for this session is Mozart, we thought it would be fun for your family to listen to some of Goethe's poems set to music—primarily as *Lieder*, or "art songs" by other great composers:

- Click [here](#) to listen to *Rosebud in the Heather/Heidenröslein*, by Franz Schubert.
- Click [here](#) to listen to *Wanderer's Night Song/Über allen Gipfeln*, by Franz Schubert.
- Click [here](#) to listen to *May Song/Mailed*, by Ludwig von Beethoven.
- Click [here](#) to listen to *The Sorcerer's Apprentice /Der Zauberlehrling*, by Paul Dukas.

# Poetry Selections

*Translated from German to English*

## **Rosebud in the Heather (Heidenröslein)**

Urchin saw a rose — a dear  
Rosebud in the heather.  
Fresh as dawn and morning-clear;  
Ran up quick and stooped to peer,  
Took his fill of pleasure,  
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,  
Rosebud in the heather.

Urchin blurts: "I'll pick you, though,  
Rosebud in the heather!"  
Rosebud: "Then I'll stick you so  
That there's no forgetting, no!  
I'll not stand it, ever!"  
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,  
Rosebud in the heather.

But the wild young fellow's torn  
Rosebud from the heather.  
Rose, she pricks him with her thorn;  
Should she plead, or cry forlorn?  
Makes no difference whether.  
Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,  
Rosebud in the heather.

## **Found (Gefunden)**

Into the woodland,  
Alone I went.  
Seeking nothing,  
My sole intent.

In the shadows I saw  
A flower grow,  
Shining like starlight,  
Its bright eyes aglow

I went to pick it,  
It gently said:  
Must I be broken,  
Withered, and dead?

So I dug it up with all  
Its roots and rich loam,  
Carried it to the garden  
Of my lovely home.

And planted it again  
In a quiet place;  
There it spreads out its flowers  
Blooming with grace.

# Poetry Selections

*Translated from German to English*

## **May Song (Mailed)**

How gloriously  
Nature gleams for me!  
How the sun sparkles!  
How the field laughs!

Blossoms burst  
From every bough  
And a thousand voices  
From every bush

And delight and rapture  
From every breast.  
O earth, O sun!  
O joy, O bliss!

O love, O love!  
So golden fair  
As morning clouds  
On yonder hills!

You bless with glory  
The fresh field,  
In a mist of blossom  
The teeming world.

O maiden, maiden,  
How I love you!  
How you look at me!  
How you love me!

## **May Song (cont.)**

The skylark loves  
Song and air,  
And morning flowers  
The hazy sky,

As I with warm blood  
Love you,  
Who give me youth  
And joy and heart

For new songs  
And new dances.  
Be happy always  
As in your love for me!

## **Wanderer's Night Song (Über allen Gipfeln)**

Thou that from the heavens art,  
Every pain and sorrow stillest,  
And the doubly wretched heart  
Doubly with refreshment fillest,  
I am weary with contending!  
Why this rapture and unrest?  
Peace descending  
Come, ah, come into my breast!

# Poetry Selections

*Translated from German to English*

## **Autumn Feelings (Herbstgefühle)**

Flourish greener, as ye clamber,  
Oh ye leaves, to seek my chamber,

Up the trellis'd vine on high!  
May ye swell, twin-berries tender,  
Juicier far,—and with more splendour

Ripen, and more speedily!  
O'er ye broods the sun at even  
As he sinks to rest, and heaven

Softly breathes into your ear  
All its fertilising fullness,  
While the moon's refreshing coolness,

Magic-laden, hovers near;  
And, alas! ye're watered ever

By a stream of tears that rill  
From mine eyes—tears ceasing never,

Tears of love that nought can still!

# Poetry Selections

*Translated from German to English*

## **The Sorcerer's Apprentice (Der Zauberlehrling)**

That old sorcerer has vanished  
And for once has gone away!  
Spirits called by him, now banished,  
My commands shall soon obey.  
Every step and saying  
That he used, I know,  
And with sprites obeying  
My arts I will show.  
Flow, flow onward  
Stretches many  
Spare not any  
Water rushing,  
Ever streaming fully downward  
Toward the pool in current gushing.  
Come, old broomstick, you are needed,  
Take these rags and wrap them round you!  
Long my orders you have heeded,  
By my wishes now I've bound you.  
Have two legs and stand,  
And a head for you.  
Run, and in your hand  
Hold a bucket too.  
Flow, flow onward  
Stretches many,  
Spare not any  
Water rushing,  
Ever streaming fully downward  
Toward the pool in current gushing.

See him, toward the shore he's racing  
There, he's at the stream already,  
Back like lightning he is chasing,  
Pouring water fast and steady.  
Once again he hastens!  
How the water spills,  
How the water basins  
Brimming full he fills!  
Stop now, hear me!  
Ample measure  
Of your treasure  
We have gotten!  
Ah, I see it, dear me, dear me.  
Master's word I have forgotten!  
Ah, the word with which the master  
Makes the broom a broom once more!  
Ah, he runs and fetches faster!  
Be a broomstick as before!  
Ever new the torrents  
That by him are fed,  
Ah, a hundred currents  
Pour upon my head!  
No, no longer  
Can I please him,  
I will seize him!  
That is spiteful!  
My misgivings grow the stronger.  
What a mien, his eyes how frightful!

# Poetry Selections

*Translated from German to English*

## **The Sorcerer's Apprentice (cont.)**

Brood of hell, you're not a mortal!  
Shall the entire house go under?  
Over threshold over portal  
Streams of water rush and thunder.  
Broom accurst and mean,  
Who will have his will,  
Stick that you have been,  
Once again stand still!  
Can I never, Broom, appease you?  
I will seize you,  
Hold and whack you,  
And your ancient wood  
I'll sever,  
With a whetted axe I'll crack you.  
He returns, more water dragging!  
Now I'll throw myself upon you!  
Soon, O goblin, you'll be sagging.  
Crash! The sharp axe has undone you.  
What a good blow, truly!  
There, he's split, I see.  
Hope now rises newly,  
And my breathing's free.  
Woe betide me!  
Both halves scurry  
In a hurry,  
Rise like towers  
There beside me.

Help me, help, eternal powers!  
Off they run, till wet and wetter  
Hall and steps immersed are lying.  
What a flood that naught can fetter!  
Lord and master, hear me crying! -  
Ah, he comes excited.  
Sir, my need is sore.  
Spirits that I've cited  
My commands ignore.  
"To the lonely  
Corner, broom!  
Hear your doom.  
As a spirit  
When he wills, your master only  
Calls you, then 'tis time to hear it."

# Poetry Study

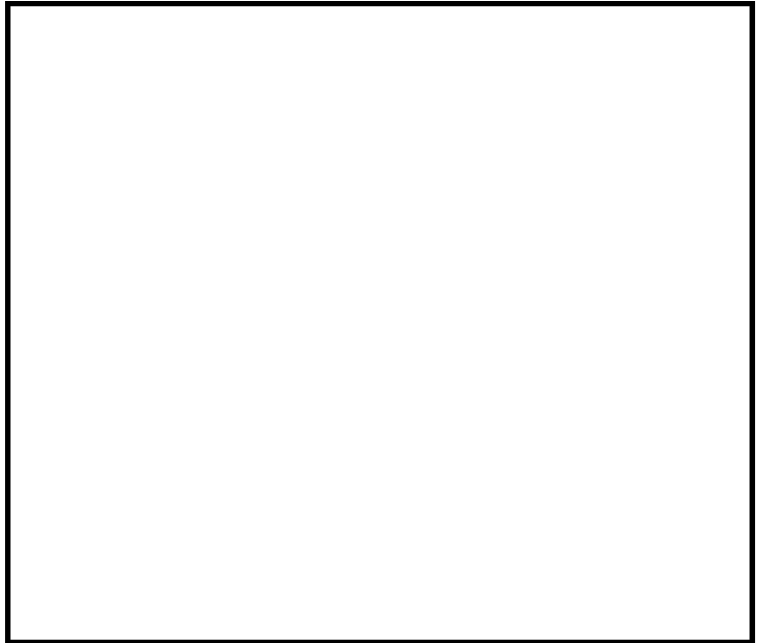
**Title:**

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**Type of Poem:**

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**Use the box to at right to draw a picture of what the poem brings to mind.**



**Write one thing you liked and did not like about the poem:**

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**Write three adjectives about the poem.**

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**Compose a few lines of your own poem inspired by this work**

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