



Poetry Recitation & Copywork

Poetry Selections

This session's featured poet is Paul Verlaine. We've included four poetry selections for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

- Moonlight
- It Rains in My Heart
- Autumn Song
- The Piano

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

- Moonlight
- The Piano

“Of its persistent, artless strain: Naught so can soothe a soul's own pain, As making glad another soul!”

~ Paul Verlaine



Paul Verlaine

March 30, 1844 – January 8, 1896

Paul Verlaine was a French poet who lived in the 19th century. Born on March 30, 1844, in Metz, France, he became one of the key figures in French literature. Verlaine's life was full of highs and lows, and his poetry reflected the emotions he experienced.

His journey into poetry began at a young age when he showed a talent for writing and a love for words. As a teenager, Verlaine started composing poems that captured his thoughts and feelings, and he published his first poem in 1863 when he was 19. Three years later, he went on to publish a collection of his poems titled *Poèmes saturniens*. His work gained attention, and soon, he became part of the literary scene in Paris.

Verlaine's poetry often explored themes of love, beauty, and the complexities of human emotions. He had a unique way of expressing his thoughts using vivid imagery and delicate language. His work was both passionate and introspective, making it relatable to many readers. One of his most famous poems, "Clair de Lune," meaning "Moonlight" in English, expresses the beauty and melancholy found in moonlight. The famous French composer Claude Debussy was inspired by this poem and created a musical piece also titled "Clair de Lune" that is widely loved to this day.

Despite his talent, Verlaine faced personal struggles, including difficulties in his relationships and battles with addiction. These challenges sometimes overshadowed his literary achievements. However, his impact on French poetry remained undeniable. In 1874, Verlaine published *Romances sans paroles* ("Songs without Words"), a collection that showcased his poetic prowess. This work solidified his place in French literature and left a lasting impression on future generations of poets. He went on to publish several more well-received collections throughout his life, including *Sagesse*, a collection of poems on wisdom and maturing, which would come to be one of his best-known works.

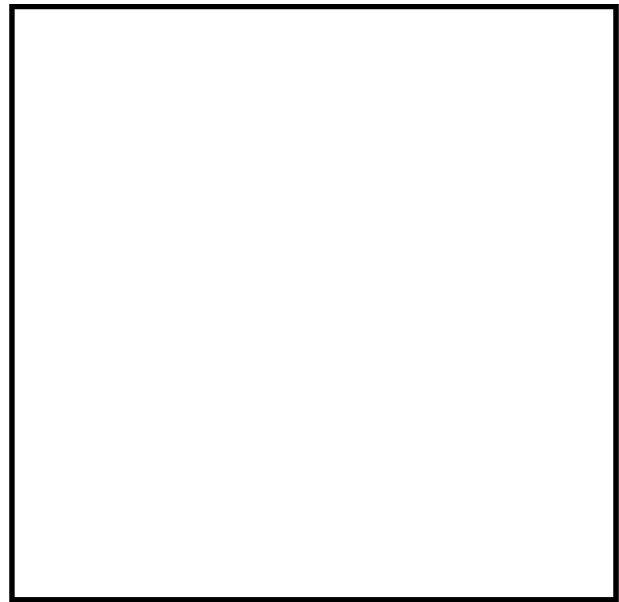
Paul Verlaine's life was cut short when he passed away on January 8, 1896. Despite the hardships he faced, his contributions to poetry continue to be celebrated. Today, people explore Verlaine's poems to connect with the universal themes he explored – love, beauty, and nature.

Poet Study

Poet: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____



3 Facts About the Poet:

Best Known Poems by the Poet:

Paul Verlaine Selections

Moonlight (Clair de Lune)

Your soul is like a landscape fantasy,
Where masks and Bergamasks, in charming wise,
Strum lutes and dance, just a bit sad to be
Hidden beneath their fanciful disguise.

Singing in minor mode of life's largesse
And all-victorious love, they yet seem quite
Reluctant to believe their happiness,
And their song mingles with the pale moonlight,

The calm, pale moonlight, whose sad beauty, beaming,
Sets the birds softly dreaming in the trees,
And makes the marbled fountains, gushing, streaming—
Slender jet-fountains—sob their ecstasies.

It Rains in My Heart

It rains in my heart
As it rains on the town,
What languor so dark
That it soaks to my heart?

Oh sweet sound of the rain
On the earth and the roofs!
For the dull heart again,
Oh the song of the rain!

It rains for no reason
In this heart that lacks heart.
What? And no treason?
It's grief without reason.

By far the worst pain,
Without hatred, or love,
Yet no way to explain
Why my heart feels such pain!

Poetry Selections

Autumn Song

When a sighing begins
In the violins
Of the autumn-song,
My heart is drowned
In the slow sound
Languorous and long

Pale as with pain,
Breath fails me when
The hours toll deep.
My thoughts recover
The days that are over,
And I weep.

And I go
Where the winds know,
Broken and brief,
To and fro,
As the winds blow
A dead leaf.

The Piano

The keyboard, over which two slim hands float,
Shines vaguely in the twilight pink and gray,
Whilst with a sound like wings, note after note
Takes flight to form a pensive little lay
That strays, discreet and charming, faint, remote,
About the room where perfumes of Her stray.

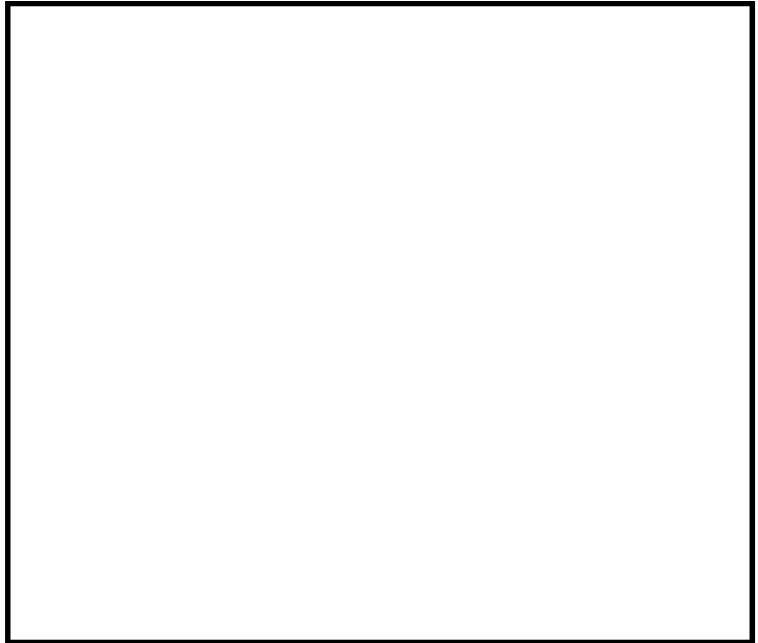
What is this sudden quiet cradling me
To that dim ditty's dreamy rise and fall?
What do you want with me, pale melody?
What is it that you want, ghost musical
That fade toward the window waveringly
A little open on the garden small?

Poetry Study

Title:

Type of Poem:

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:

Write three adjectives about the poem.

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