



## Poetry Selections

This session's featured poet is E.E. Cummings. We've included four of his quirky springtime poetry selections for your kids and teens to read, listen to, memorize, and recite. They are:

- [in Just-]
- ("in/Spring comes(no-...")
- when faces called flowers float out of the ground
- sweet spring is your

For copy work, 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:

- when faces called flowers float out of the ground
- sweet spring is your

*"Then it was spring; and in spring anything may happen. Absolutely anything."*

~ E.E. Cummings

Poetry Recitation & Copywork



## E.E. Cummings

October 14, 1894 – September 3, 1962

E.E. Cummings was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on October 14th, 1894. His full name was Edward Estlin Cummings, and he was the son of a Unitarian minister who encouraged him to read widely and engage with literature at an early age. By the time he attended Harvard in 1911, Cummings had already begun writing poetry. His first book of poetry, *The Enormous Room*, was published in 1922 and brought him immediate acclaim.

Cummings' poetic style was unique and often provocative, as he experimented with both form and syntax. He wrote many poems that featured unconventional capitalization and punctuation marks, which some readers found challenging but others appreciated for its innovativeness. His poems also frequently featured themes of love, nature, and religion.

In addition to his poetry, Cummings was also an accomplished painter and playwright. He published four plays during his lifetime which were performed in New York City.

He was much more prolific with his artwork, though. Most of his paintings were often abstract in nature, with bright colors and geometric shapes that mirrored his poetic style's unconventionality. He referred to writing and painting as his twin obsessions, describing himself as a "poetandpainter." Throughout his life, he produced more than 1,600 oil and watercolor paintings and over 9,000 drawings.

Once in an interview, he was asked if this painting interfered with his writing. His response was, "Quite the contrary. They love each other dearly."

As an avant-garde painter between both world wars, he identified as a cubist and abstract artist, and he held over 30 exhibits of his artwork. However, his success as a poet far eclipsed his success as an artist.

Throughout his life, Cummings traveled extensively, visiting Europe multiple times and even spending time in New York City to work on theatrical productions. He died at the age of 67 on September 3rd, 1962, in North Conway, New Hampshire. At the time of his death, he was the second most widely read poet in the United States, after Robert Frost.

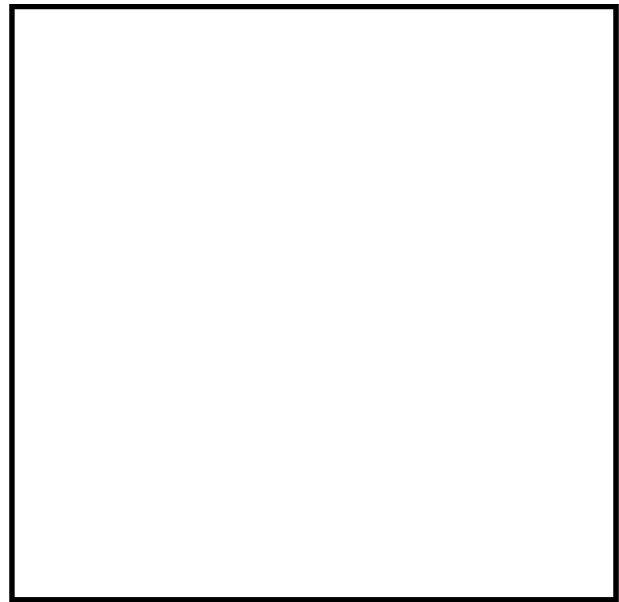
E.E. Cummings was an influential and groundbreaking poet whose works are still widely read and studied today. His unique style has left a lasting legacy in the world of literature, as well as art and theater. He will forever be remembered for his singular voice and innovative approach to language that continues to inspire (and sometimes irritate) both readers and writers alike.

# Poet Study

Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_



**3 Facts About the Poet:**

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**Best Known Poems by the Poet:**

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# E.E. Cummings Selections

## [in Just-]

in Just-  
spring when the world is mud-  
luscious the little  
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee

and eddieandbill come  
running from marbles and  
piracies and it's  
spring

when the world is puddle-wonderful

the queer  
old balloonman whistles  
far and wee  
and bettyandisbel come dancing

from hop-scotch and jump-rope and

it's  
spring  
and

the

goat-footed

balloonMan whistles  
far  
and  
wee

## when faces called flowers float out of the ground

when faces called flowers float out of the ground  
and breathing is wishing and wishing is having —  
but keeping is downward and doubting and never  
— it's april (yes, april; my darling) it's spring!  
yes the pretty birds frolic as spry as can fly  
yes the little fish gambol as glad as can be  
(yes the mountains are dancing together)

when every leaf opens without any sound  
and wishing is having and having is giving —  
but keeping is doting and nothing and nonsense,  
— alive; we're alive, dear: it's (kiss me now) spring!  
now the pretty birds hover so she and so he  
now the little fish quiver so you and so i  
(now the mountains are dancing, the mountains)

when more than was lost has been found has been found  
and having is giving and giving is living —  
but keeping is darkness and winter and cringing  
— it's spring (all our night becomes day) o, it's spring!  
all the pretty birds dive to the heart of the sky  
all the little fish climb through the mind of the sea  
(all the mountains are dancing; are dancing)

# E.E. Cummings Selections

("in/Spring comes(no-...")

in

Spring comes(no-  
one  
asks his name)

a mender  
of things

with eager  
fingers(with  
patient  
eyes)re

-new-

ing remaking what  
other  
-wise we should  
have t  
hrown a-

way (and whose

brook  
-bright flower-  
soft bird  
-quick voice loves

**sweet spring is your**

"sweet spring is your  
time is my time is our  
time for springtime is lovetime  
and viva sweet love

(all the merry little birds are  
flying in the floating in the  
very spirits singing in  
are winging in the blossoming)

lovers go and lovers come  
awandering awondering  
but any two are perfectly  
alone there's nobody else alive

(such a sky and such a sun  
i never knew and neither did you  
and everybody never breathed  
quite so many kinds of yes)

not a tree can count his leaves  
each herself by opening  
but shining who by thousands mean  
only one amazing thing

(secretly adoring shyly  
tiny winging darting floating  
merry in the blossoming  
always joyful selves are singing)

sweet spring is your  
time is my time is our  
time for springtime is lovetime  
and viva sweet love"

# Poetry Study

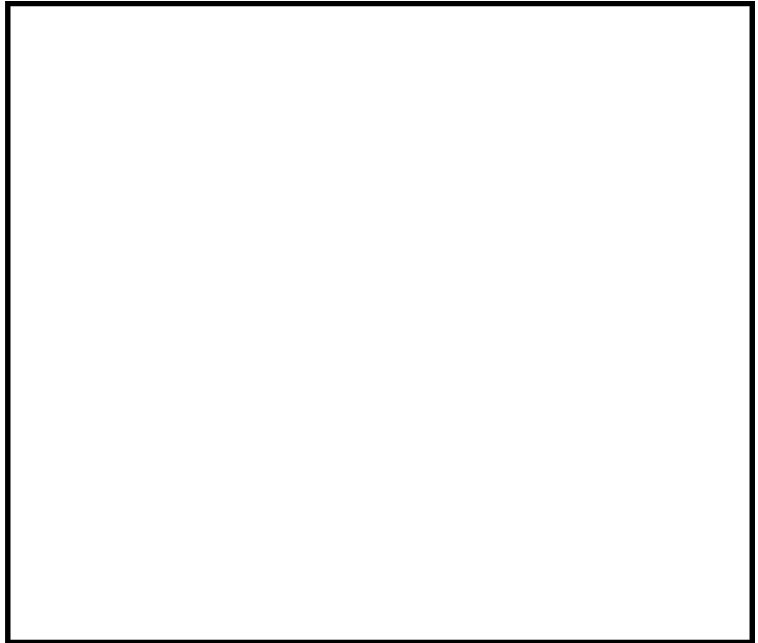
**Title:**

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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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