

POETRY – A RELICT OF THE PAST?

– introducing the genre–

1. How would you describe poetry? Give your personal definition by completing the following sentence:

Poetry _____

 _____.

2. Take a moment to think about the following questions:

- a. What does poetry mean to you?
- b. What role does poetry play in your life?

3. *The New York Times*¹ published an article in 2023 with a headline questioning: “Is Poetry dead?” How would you answer the question?
4. In public discourse we often hear or read that poetry is “dead” or “slowly going extinct”^{2,3}. How would you revive poetry? What would it need for you to come back to live?
5. Evaluate in which ways poetry as a literary medium can develop gradually “in parallel”⁴ with the evolution of the world”⁵ and what it means for the genre of poetry today.

“The poetry of the earth is never dead”; poetry is the voice that speaks within all of us, the translator of human emotions, words, that in all their complexity, make sense of the world. **While it is perhaps changing as a literary medium, evolving⁵ in parallel with the evolution of the world, it will never be dead.** It is central to the human condition.”

John Keats (British poet)

¹ Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/15/opinion/letters/is-poetry-dead.html> (last accessed: 18th of June 2023). All rights reserved.

² **extinct** – not now existing (adjective)

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/24/poetry-is-going-extinct-government-data-show/>

⁴ **in parallel** – separately but at the same time and in a similar or related way

⁵ Source: <https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2022/10/11/poetry-dead-or-alive/> (last accessed: 18th of June 2023). All rights reserved.

⁶ **evolving** – to develop gradually, or to cause something or someone to develop gradually (verb)

