**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*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

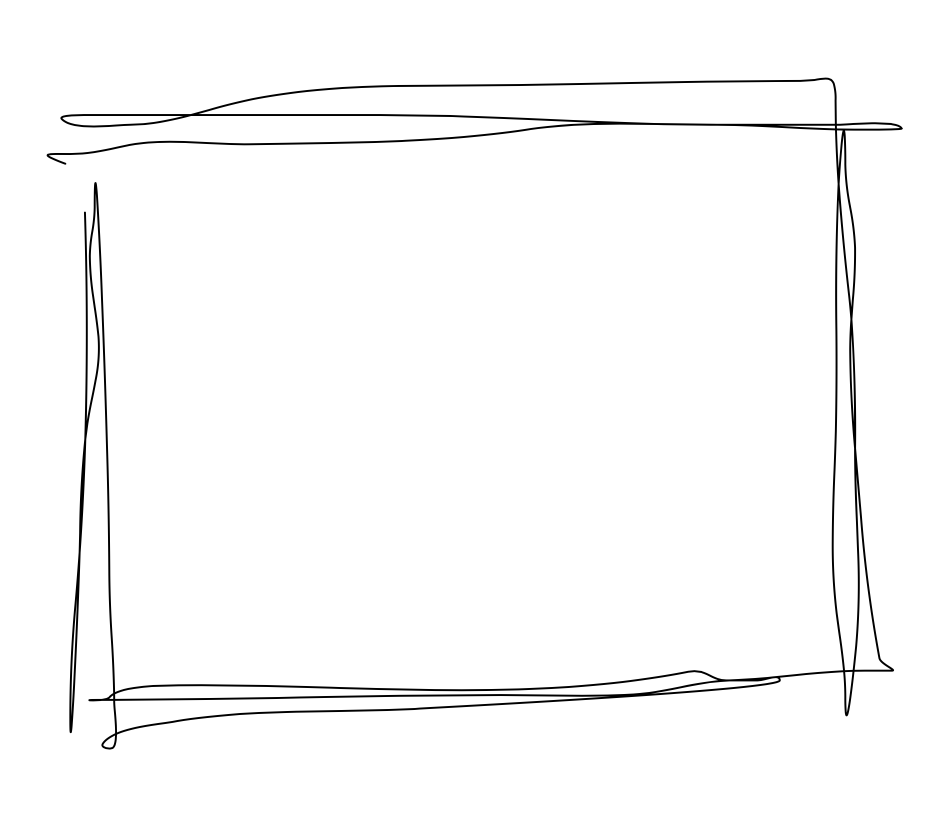
1. Take a moment to think about the following questions:
   1. What does poetry mean to you?
   2. What role does poetry play in your life?

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1. *The New York Times[[1]](#footnote-1)* published an article in 2023 with a headline questioning: “Is Poetry dead?” How would you answer the question?
2. In public discourse we often hear or read that poetry is “dead” or “slowly going extinct”[[2]](#footnote-2),[[3]](#footnote-3). How would you revive poetry? What would it need for you to come back to live?
3. Evaluate in which ways poetry as a literary medium can develop gradually “in parallel[[4]](#footnote-4) with the evolution of the world”[[5]](#footnote-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. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **extinct** – not now [existing](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/existing) (adjective) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/04/24/poetry-is-going-extinct-government-data-show/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **in parallel** – [separately](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/separately) but at the same [time](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/time) and in a [similar](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/similar) or [related](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/related) way [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Source: https://www.oxfordstudent.com/2022/10/11/poetry-dead-or-alive/ (last accessed: 18th of June 2023). All rights reserved.

   5 **evolving** – to [develop](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/develop) [gradually](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/gradually), or to [cause](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/cause) something or someone to [develop](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/develop) gradually (verb) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)