



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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April 2018

Welcome to the April 2018 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the Florida Youth Council!!!

For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked to write National Poetry Month. This topic

their thoughts about National Poetry Month. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this March 2018 edition of *The Noodle*!

Current Members:

allow members to share

Shevie Barnes
Derek Carraway
Rocky Castro
Megan Germain
Ian Horowitz
Josh Tapia
Dakota Smoot
Christina Waldron
Serena Wetmore

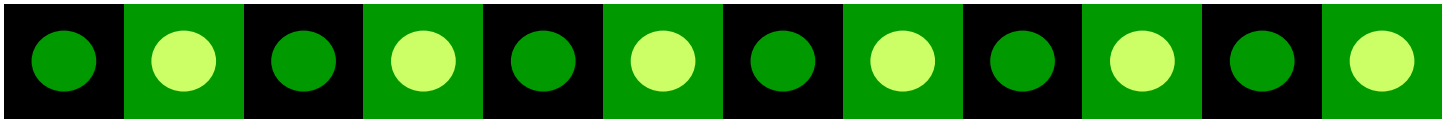


What is Poetry?

Poetry is a collection of words that express an emotion or idea, sometimes with a specific meaning, sound, or rhythm.

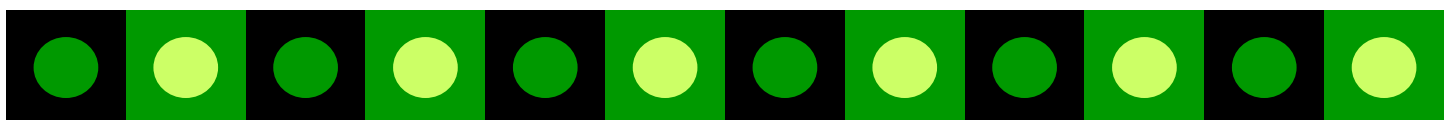


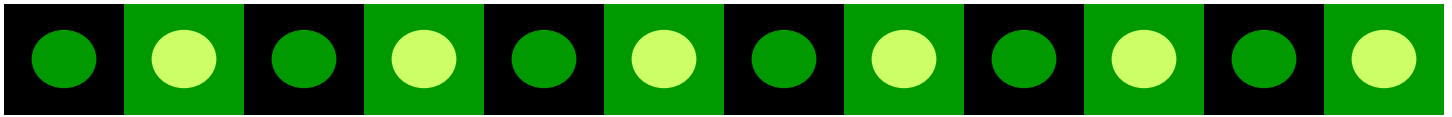
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History of National Poetry Month (April)

etry Month, which would be designated in April. It was first observed in April of 1996. It even got a proclamation signed by former President Bill Clinton on April 1st in its inaugural year. In years since, mayors from cities and towns across the country have issued similar proclamations and even established other events that are locally held during the month. This is a little bit on the background of National Poetry Month.





Poetry Slam!

April is national poetry month. A lot of people hear the word poetry and think . . . “Tck, poetry! Why would I want to read poetry? It’s so depressing!” First of all, there are many different kinds of poetry, and not all of them are depressing. And second, if you don’t like to read, there is what is called spoken word poetry. That just so happens to be my favorite!

I would love to go to a poetry slam in the near future. It’s basically like an open mic night, but for poets. Seriously, just thinking about it gives me goosebumps. I love spoken word. I could just listen to it on YouTube all day. As a matter of fact, I have done that in the past. There’s just something about listening to the artist read their work with such emotion and passion for their art. That makes me super happy. I will include a YouTube link for one of my favorite spoken word poems in this article as well as one of my favorite written poems

Souls

— *Lang Leav*

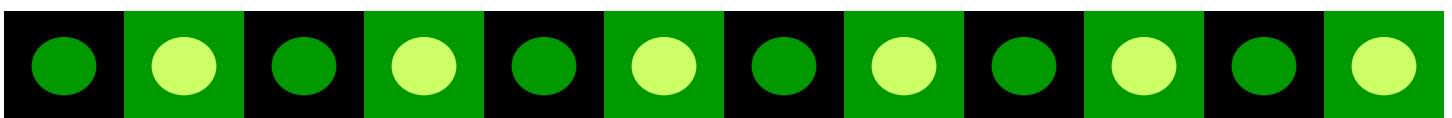
When two souls fall in love, there is nothing else but the yearning to be close to the other. The presence that is felt through a hand held, a voice heard, or a smile seen.



Souls do not have calendars or clocks, nor do they understand the notion of time or distance. They only know it feels right to be with one another.

This is the reason why you miss someone so much when they are not there— even if they are only in the very next room. Your soul only feels their absence— it doesn’t realize the separation is temporary.

By Megan Germain



Life is Fine

Langston Hughes, 1902 - 1967

I went down to the river,
I set down on the bank.
I tried to think but couldn't,
So I jumped in and sank.

I came up once and hollered!
I came up twice and cried!
If that water hadn't a-been so cold
I might've sunk and died.

But it was Cold in that water!
It was cold!

I took the elevator
Sixteen floors above the ground.
I thought about my baby
And thought I would jump down.

I stood there and I hollered!
I stood there and I cried!
If it hadn't a-been so high
I might've jumped and died.

But it was High up there! It
was high!

So since I'm still here livin',
I guess I will live on.

I could've died for love—
But for livin' I was born

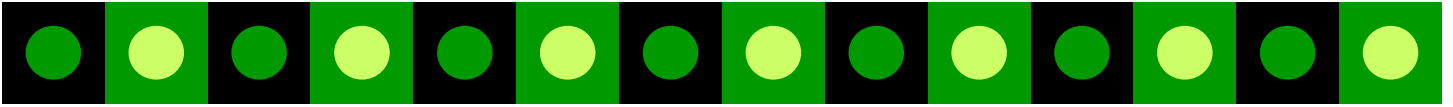
Though you may hear me holler,
And you may see me cry—
I'll be dogged, sweet baby,
If you gonna see me die.

Life is fine! Fine as wine! Life
is fine!

I chose this poem by Langston Hughes because I happen to be a big fan. Also, however, I believe that it represents a lot of the personas of people with disabilities. I once met a girl who had cerebral palsy and also a twin who didn't have any disability. I remember her always saying how glad she was that it was her who had cerebral palsy because her twin could not handle it. It's a strange thing to believe, however, I too have the same thought. If it wasn't me, I wouldn't wish this on my brothers either. Langston talks about how he may have reacted if the situation was different. If the water wasn't cold he might have drowned. Circumstances are different, so that makes life fine.

By Shevie





“Two Poems in One”

My poem combines two poems into one.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
how I wonder what you are,
up above the world so high,
like a diamond in the sky.

A star shines like a diamond in the
night.

The North Star is the brightest in the
sky.

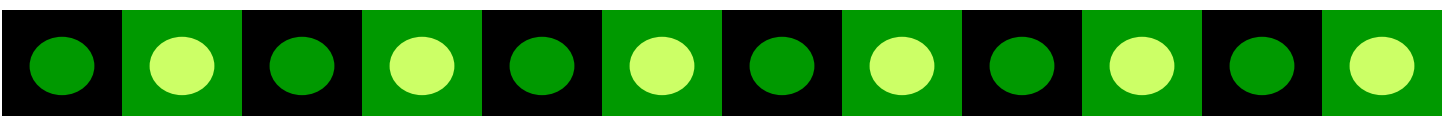
The stars shine like a flashlight
to help guide people on their way.

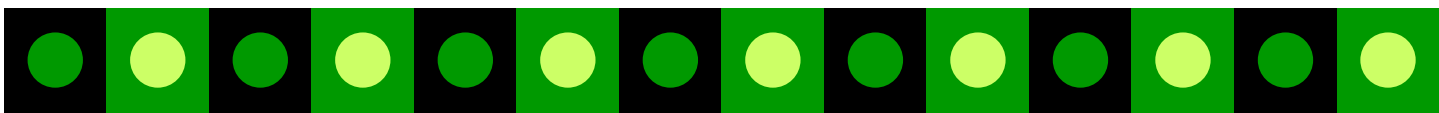
Lighthouses shine on the water
to help boaters find their way home dur-
ing storms.

Star light, star bright,
first star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
have the wish, I wish tonight.

When you wish upon a star,
a lot of wishes can come true.
Most wishes have come true
when you least expect them to.

By Christina





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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