



*Poetry Tea Time
Starter Kit*

A YEAR OF POETRY TEA TIME

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF POETRY TEA TIME

You will not regret finding a tiny slice of time to enjoy this with your children. Remember, it's more important to just start than to worry about the details, so just grab random mugs and a box of cookies (or some grapes) and jump into the magic of poetry. I have included 3 poems for you to try, and it even helps you out with discussion questions. The poems come from hands-on learning poetry units that you can find on my website ayearofpoetryteatime.com (more will be added soon).

Here are the basic steps to take...

1. Read a poem
2. Ask your kids what they think about the poem
3. Ask them if there are any new words they didn't know.
4. Look up unknown words
5. Reread the poem (if it's a long poem, you can just reread the sections with the new words)
6. Ask them what they think it means
7. Share what you think it means
8. Ask them if they have any other ideas that pop into their heads.
9. read another poem

A Moment With You By Christine Owens

I sit here thinking of what I should share
What will inspire and make you all care
Help you all see how poetry can feed
The feeling, intention, your family may need
How each member's mind will soon start to peek
With deeper realization of more thoughts to seek.
The meanings, the secrets that each poem holds
Will light up their minds as the treasure unfolds
No matter their age, a sudden new find
Will cause each young child to explore their mind
For though at the start they may fuss and complain
A poem will leave their minds ever changed



Basic Tea etiquette

Here are the very basics of tea etiquette. This is just to get you started and to make the tea time feel special. You can learn a lot more in the Tea Etiquette section of the **A Year of Poetry Tea Time** Book available on Amazon or at www.ayearofpoetryteatime.com. If your not interested in dabbling in wtiquette right now you can skip this park.

Drinking the Tea

If you are sitting at a high table, like a dining table, then the saucer remains on the table, and you only pick up the cup. If you are standing or sitting at a low table, like a coffee table, then you will pick up the saucer with the cup. When drinking, you will bring the cup to your mouth, and you will tilt the cup towards your mouth.

You never tilt your head or lean towards the cup. While you are drinking your tea, never look over the edge of the cup, but look into the cup and maintain your elegance.

How to Hold the Tea Cup

Yes, there is a way to hold the teacup. You will NOT put your index finger all the way through the tea cup's handle. It will meet your thumb just on the other side of the handle, and the underside of the handle will rest upon the side of your middle finger. There is no need to lift your pinky finger. This was something that may have been done when tea cups had no handles. An elegant lady holds her pinky in. But of course, if you're holding a tea party at your house and those little girls want to feel fancy and lift up their pinky, then let them have their fun.

Cream Tea

Cream Tea is the most basic tea. It includes scones, clotted cream, and jam. But for your purpose, you can use any treat you would like. This could be muffins, donuts, cupcakes, cookies, etc.

Other Tips:

- Never place your elbows on the table.
- When you are not using a hand, you should rest it in your lap on top of your napkin.
- Never slurp while drinking your tea.
- Keep both legs in front of you when sitting in your chair.
- Do not talk while your fork is in your hand. You are supposed to put your fork down between bites.
- Do not reach across for items on the table, but ask others to hand them to you.
- Don't talk while there is food in your mouth.
- Sit up straight and do not slouch.
- Do not check your cell phone while sitting at the table.

ON THE VOWELS

BY JOHNATHAN SWIFT

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We are little airy creatures,
All of different voice and features;
One of us in glass is set,
One of us you'll find in jet.
T'other you may see in tin,
And the fourth a box within.
If the fifth you should pursue,
It can never fly from you.

Discussion

What are the 6 vowels?

Can you find any words in this poem with no vowels? Why or why not?

For younger kids each day count how many of a certain vowel is on the page. You could even make a bar graph throughout the week showing how many words had A's, E's, I's...

For Older kids how many words can you think of for each vowel that has two vowel, 3 vowels, 4 vowels... For example eel, else, corner, elephant. Make a bar graph showing how many 2, 3, and 4 vowel words you found.

Listen to the poem [HERE](#)

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FOUR THINGS MAKE US HAPPY HERE

BY ROBERT HERRICK



**Health is the first good
lent to men;
A gentle disposition then:
Next, to be rich
by no by-ways;
Lastly, with friends
t' enjoy our days.**

Discussion

Do You agree with Robert Herrick?

What are four things that make you happy (things you can't buy)?

Is there anything you would add to the list?

Is there anything you would remove from his list?

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TOPSY-TURVY WORLD

BY WILLIAM BRIGHTLY RANDS

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If the butterfly courted the bee,
And the owl the porcupine;

If churches were built in the sea,
And three times one was nine;

If the pony rode his master,

If the buttercups ate the cows,

If the cats had the dire disaster

To be worried, sir, by the mouse;

If mamma, sir, sold the baby

To a gypsy for half a crown;

If a gentleman, sir, was a lady,—

The world would be Upside-down!

If any or all of these wonders

Should ever come about,

I should not consider them blunders,

For I should be Inside-out!

Discussion

What do you think Rands means in the last 4 lines?

What things can you think of that would seem upside-down?

Listen to the poem [HERE](#)

A YEAR OF POETRY TEA TIME



Vanilla Tea Cake Cookie

This is a classic old-fashioned cookie. Perfect to go with your tea time.

Nothing can beat the simplicity of these.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup butter, room temperature
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 cream of tartar
- 1/2 tsp salt

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F & place parchment paper on the baking sheet.
2. Cream together the sugar and butter. Beat until creamy.
3. Mix in the egg and vanilla
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together the dry ingredients.
5. Mix the dry ingredients with the butter. Mix well.
6. Add a cup of granulated sugar to a small bowl.
7. Roll the dough into balls and roll each ball in the sugar.
8. Place each dough ball on the parchment paper.
9. Bake 10-12 minutes

Cookie edges will be lightly golden. Cool on a wire rack.

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Hands-on Activity

On the next page, you will find a fun chemistry lesson you can do with your children with butterfly pea tea.

All of the **Tea With A Poet** Hands-On Units include active activities to bring learning to life and make it memorable.

Find more learning fun at ayearofpoetryteatime.com

ACTIVITY

TEA CHEMISTRY

Hop down the Rabbit Trail

Rands liked to think about the strange and possible things that would excite the imagination. Today we are going to test the possibility of tea being used as a way to measure the pH of things. Now this is no ordinary tea but the magical Butterfly Tea made from the Butterfly Pea Flower. Yep the flower of a pea plant.

What you will need:

- Butterfly Tea (Available here <https://amzn.to/3HzHE4U>)
- 1 whole lemon or lemon juice
- 3 Clear jars or glasses
- Baking Soda
- bleach (optional)
- Boiled water
- spoon
- Other things you could try adding are pickle juice, pineapple juice , seltzer water, red bull or monster drink, soda ...



LETS DO IT!

1. Boil water
 2. Once the water is done boiling place a tea bag inside and let steep until you have a rich blue color.
 3. Pour enough water into each jar or glass till about 1/2 full.
 4. Using your Lab Sheet help the children make a hypothesis. Each child can have their own LAB SHEET
 5. Once the hypothesis is made for jar 1, test it out by mixing in one additive like Lemon juice. Observe what it does before and after you stir it.
 6. Use the pH scale to identify the pH of the additive.
 7. Repeat this with the next two jars and the other additives.
- Having FUN? Try some other additives your children think of.

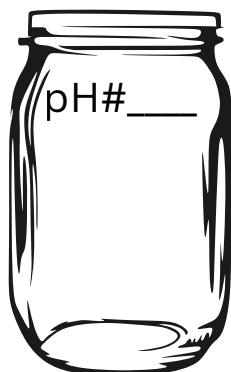
For more poetry & fun, join the FB group [Tea With A Poet FB Group](#)
find more hands-on unites at www.ayearofpoetryteatime.com/shop

LAB SHEET



Make your hypothesis,
Mix the solution and
then color the answer in your jar.

JAR 1

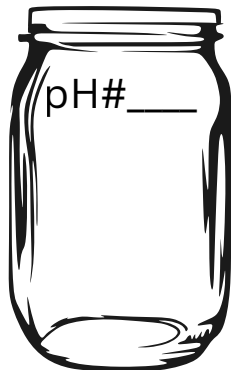


What will you add? _____

Do you think it will be? Acid Neutral Base

What do you think will happen? If I _____
then _____ pH# _____

JAR 2

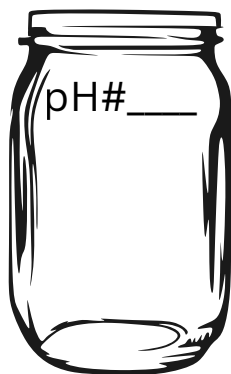


What will you add? _____

Do you think it will be? Acid Neutral Base

What do you think will happen? If I _____
then _____ pH# _____

JAR 3



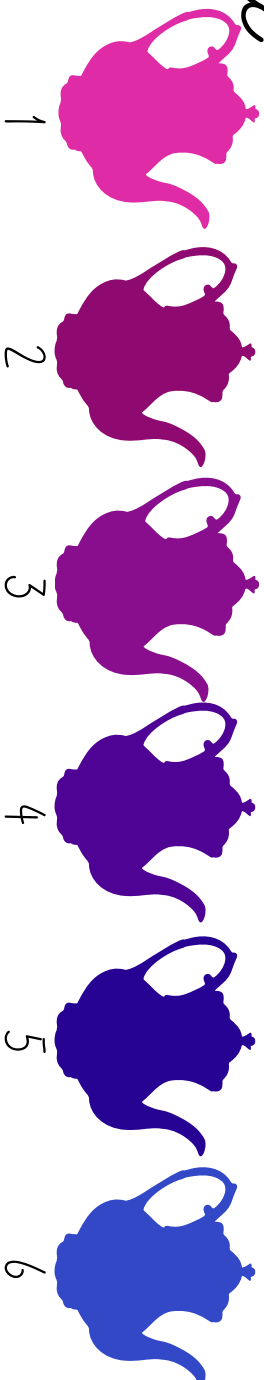
What will you add? _____

Do you think it will be? Acid Neutral Base

What do you think will happen? If I _____
then _____ pH# _____

pH Scale

Acidic



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