



It's raining poetry in Pennsylvania!



**My kindness grows when
I am kind to someone
Being kind is awesome**

— *Journey S, 4th Grade*

Rain Poetry engages children from across Pennsylvania in a hands-on community poetry activity facilitated by local poets and teaching artists. This innovative project started in Philadelphia in 2023, involving elementary school students from five neighborhoods who learned about haiku and wrote their own poems. Selected haiku were installed on the ground in public spaces, including neighborhood parks and libraries, with a special rain-activated solution that allows the poetry to appear like magic just by adding some water!

The beauty of Rain Poetry is that young people explore their voices and express themselves through poetry while also transforming everyday spaces into opportunities to engage with the humanities and foster learning and conversation. Each installation has its own community reveal celebration, inviting families, friends and neighbors to connect and celebrate the work of young people.



Philadelphia

Children from five neighborhoods collaborated with local poets and Youth Poets Laureate to create haiku inspired by *“What helps you keep growing?”* The project featured community events and a citywide celebration at the Free Library of Philadelphia.

Pittsburgh

In partnership with Assemble (Garfield), YouthPlaces Northview Heights, and YMCA Lighthouse Project (Homewood/Brushton), three dynamic afterschool programs, teaching artist Karen Howard guided students in writing poetry on unique themes meaningful to their communities.



Johnstown

Haiku written by local children and teens as part of PA Humanities’ Rain Poetry project are now on display at the Storywalk along the Johnstown Greenways Trail and at the Bottle Works in Cambria City.

Reading

Launching in the Spring of 2025.

4
cities

345
youth participants

255
poems

23
workshops

10
installations



“It has been magical to witness how [young people’s] poems have breathed life into public spaces...”

— Yolanda Wisher, Poet Mentor and Curriculum Development Consultant



We invite you to think, engage, and grow with us!

Find out more at RainPoetry.org