

Activities at Home

Secret Code Poems

Texting Game

Here is a game to play over text or on paper with friends and family. Besides a phone (or paper and pencil), a friend or two, all you need is a little interest in poetry.

How To Play:

One person will be the **POET**. All other participants are the **READERS**.

Poet:

Think of a four-letter word that will be the subject of your poem.

Example: HOPE

Compose a pair of couplets to describe that word. Send it to the Guessers.

Example:

It is a little something,
we all need every day.

A feeling you dream of,
a lifting up we often say.

Reader(s):

Try to guess the subject of the poem. They spell out their guess using the flower alphabet (see section below).

Example Guess: HUGS

Hydrangea, Ursinia, Gardenia, Sunflower

Poet:

Can give hints by composing another set of couplets. Try capitalizing any letters that would help spell the subject.

Example:

It is the sunrise at dawn,
after a dark night.

It is the **H**olding out,
the wishing, the extra sight.

Reader(s):

Use the clues to take another guess at the poem.

Example Guess: HOPE

Hydrangea, **O**rchid, **P**oppy, **E**chinacea

Poet:

Assembles the couplet and guesses into a final poem:

HOPE:

It is a little something,
we all need every day.

A feeling you dream of,
a lifting up we often say.

Hydrangea, Ursinia, Gardenia, Sunflower

It is the sunrise at dawn,
after a dark night.

It is the holding out,
the wishing, the extra sight.

Hydrangea, **O**rchid, **P**oppy, **E**chinacea

Flower Alphabet

You can create your own alphabet based on anything. We used this website to create a flower alphabet:

[A to Z Flowers | The Ultimate Flower Database](#)

A- Aster	J- Jasmine	S- Sunflower
B- Buttercup	K- Kalmia	T- Tulip
C- Carnation	L- Lantana	U- Ursinia
D- Daisy	M- Marigold	V- Violet
E- Echinacea	N- Nemesia	W- Waterlily
F- Freesia	O- Orchid	X- Xeranthemum
G- Gardenia	P- Poppy	Y- Yucca
H- Hydrangea	Q- Queen Anne's Lace	Z- Zinnia
I- Iris	R- Rose	

You can make other alphabets inspired by the [NATO military alphabet](#) (Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, ...)