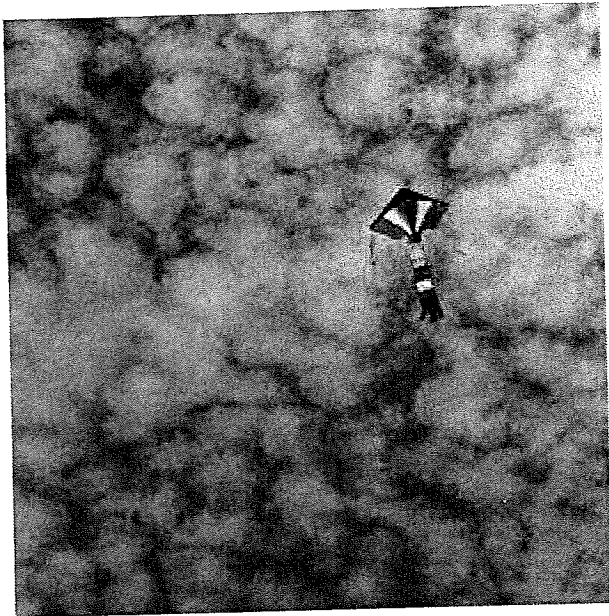


# Paired (Poems)

ry oliver.

April is National Poetry Month. Get ready, y'all. I am posting a poem every day because it was so much fun last year.



"This World" by Mary Oliver

I would like to write a poem about the world that has in it  
nothing fancy.  
But it seems impossible.  
Whatever the subject, the morning sun  
glimmers it.  
The tulip feels the heat and flaps its petals open and becomes a star.  
The ants bore into the peony bud and there is a dark  
pinprick well of sweetness.  
As for the stones on the beach, forget it.  
Each one could be set in gold.  
So I tried with my eyes shut, but of course the birds  
were singing.  
And the aspen trees were shaking the sweetest music  
out of their leaves.  
And that was followed by, guess what, a momentous and  
beautiful silence  
as comes to all of us, in little earfuls, if we're not too  
hurried to hear it.  
As for spiders, how the dew hangs in their webs  
even if they say nothing, or seem to say nothing.  
So fancy is the world, who knows, maybe they sing.  
So fancy is the world, who knows, maybe the stars sing too,  
and the ants, and the peonies, and the warm stones,  
so happy to be where they are, on the beach, instead of being  
locked up in gold.

# Poem of the Week, "Why I Wake Early"

posted in [other stuff](#) by [MaryB](#)

## Why I Wake Early by Mary Oliver

Hello, sun in my face.  
Hello, you who make the morning  
and spread it over the fields  
and into the faces of the tulips  
and the nodding morning glories,  
and into the windows of, even, the  
miserable and crotchety—

best preacher that ever was,  
dear star, that just happens  
to be where you are in the universe  
to keep us from ever-darkness,  
to ease us with warm touching,  
to hold us in the great hands of light—  
good morning, good morning, good morning.

Watch, now, how I start the day  
in happiness, in kindness.

Copyright restrictions prevent "This World" by Mary Oliver from being displayed in this format. Please refer to *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver, accessible through your local library.

**Part A**

In line 7 of "This World," what does the phrase **bore into** mean?

- A. dig a hole in
- B. intensely stare at
- C. quickly break apart
- D. build small nests in

**Part B**

Which word from "This World" helps the reader understand the meaning of the phrase **bore into**?

- A. star (line 6)
- B. bud (line 7)
- C. well (line 8)
- D. sweetness (line 8)

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### Part A

In "This World," what technique does the poet use to emphasize the central idea?

- A. similes comparing plants to animals
- B. personification of objects in nature
- C. a vivid description of the speaker
- D. the creation of a solitary mood

### Part B

Which **two** pieces of evidence support the answer in Part A?

- A. "The tulip feels the heat . . ." (line 6)
- B. ". . . becomes a star." (line 6)
- C. ". . . bore into the peony bud . . ." (line 7)
- D. ". . . the birds / were singing." (lines 11–12)
- E. ". . . a momentous and / beautiful silence" (lines 15–16)
- F. ". . . and the warm stones, / so happy to be where they are . . ." (lines 23–24)

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**Part A**

How does the poet reveal the speaker's attitude about life?

- A. by including advice on how to complete creative work
- B. by listing plans that ensure one's time is well spent
- C. by providing a description of how to study the behaviors of plants and animals
- D. by showing the benefits of slowing down and appreciating one's surroundings

**Part B**

Which phrase from the poem **best** supports the answer in Part A?

- A. "I would like to write a poem . . ." (line 1)
- B. ". . . of course the birds / were singing." (lines 11–12)
- C. "And that was followed by . . ." (line 15)
- D. ". . . if we're not too / hurried to hear it." (lines 17–18)

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**Part A**

What is a central theme of "This World"?

- A. People sometimes destroy nature.
- B. People should study nature.
- C. Nature is wonderfully complex.
- D. Nature is ancient.

**Part B**

Which evidence from "This World" best supports the answer in Part A?

- A. "I would like to write a poem . . . ." (line 1)
- B. "So I tried with my eyes shut . . . ." (line 11)
- C. ". . . as comes to all of us . . ." (line 17)
- D. "So fancy is the world . . . ." (line 21)

Read the poem "Beach Walk Souvenir." Then answer the questions.

Beach Walk Souvenir  
by Candice Stover

Never as bright the stones  
we find, the stones we stoop  
to gather, all slick with the sea

and its tossing glimmer—

5 no matter how we turn  
to burnish them again in our palms

or pocket them

(even in our mouths)  
something in their gleam is gone

10 or left with whatever's flashing  
back in the sand: centuries

of salt tumbling stones out of time

and licking every trick made

15 of light, leaving us to question  
what entices us, what lasts.

"Beach Walk Souvenir" by Candice Stover (original copyright 2006) (A  
Coastal Companion © 2008)

**Part A**

In "Beach Walk Souvenir," what is **most likely** suggested by the staggered line structure?

- A. the uneven surface of the shoreline
- B. how small the speaker feels
- C. the speaker walking along the shoreline as the waves go in and out
- D. how the sea has changed the stones from rough to smooth

**Part B**

Which words from the poem support the answer in Part A?

- A. "Beach Walk . . ." (title line)
- B. "... all slick with the sea" (line 3)
- C. "something in their gleam is gone" (line 9)
- D. "... leaving us to question / what entices us . . ." (line 14–15)

## This World Beach Walk Souvenir

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Read the poem "Beach Walk Souvenir." Then answer the questions.

## Beach Walk Souvenir

by Candice Stover

Never as bright the stones  
we find, the stones we stoop  
to gather, all slick with the sea

5 and its tossing glimmer—  
no matter how we turn  
to burnish them again in our palms

or pocket them  
(even in our mouths)  
something in their gleam is gone

10 or left with whatever's flashing  
back in the sand: centuries  
of salt tumbling stones out of time

15 and licking every trick made  
of light, leaving us to question  
what entices us, what lasts.

"Beach Walk Souvenir" by Candice Stover (original copyright 2006) (A Coastal Companion © 2008)

## Part A

Which of the following claims is supported by **both** poems?

- A. It can be difficult to describe nature in words.
- B. The beauty of an object is connected to its natural environment.
- C. Objects in nature should remain untouched.
- D. People do not belong in the natural world.

## Part B

Drag and drop **one** phrase from **each** poem that supports the claim in Part A into each box.

## Phrases from "This World"

"I would like to write a poem  
about the world" ("This World,"  
line 1)

"As for the stones on the  
beach, forget it." ("This World,"  
line 9)

"even if they say nothing, or  
seem to say nothing" ("This  
World," line 20)

"and the warm stones, / so  
happy to be where they are, on  
the beach" ("This World," line  
23–24)

"This World"

## Phrases from "Beach Walk Souvenir"

"the stones we stoop / to  
gather" ("Beach Walk  
Souvenir," lines 2–3)

"we turn / to burnish them  
again" ("Beach Walk Souvenir,"  
lines 5–6)

"something in their gleam is  
gone" ("Beach Walk Souvenir,"  
line 9)

"leaving us to question what /  
entices us" ("Beach Walk  
Souvenir," lines 14–15)

"Beach Walk Souvenir"



Copyright restrictions prevent "This World" by Mary Oliver from being displayed in this format. Please refer to *Why I Wake Early* by Mary Oliver, accessible through your local library.

**Part A**

Read line 9 from the poem.

As for the stones on the beach, forget it.

How does the line reflect a shift in tone in the poem?

- A. The line is informal, but the tone of the poem is formal.
- B. The line is vague, but the tone of the poem is specific.
- C. The line is joyful, but the tone of the poem is frustrated.
- D. The line is humorous, but the tone of the poem is serious.

**Part B**

What other line from the poem has a similar shift in tone?

- A. "Each one could be set in gold." (line 10)
- B. "... the Aspen trees were shaking ..." (line 13)
- C. "... that was followed by, guess what ..." (line 15)
- D. "even if they say nothing, or seem to say nothing." (line 20)