



Truth Poetry

Truth Lines

The following are familiar 'truth lines' that can become repetitions for you to turn into poetic lines and therefore poems!

1. If the truth be known
2. Nothing could be further from the truth
3. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
4. If truth be told
5. Economical with the truth

Working on your own or with another/others, take any of these lines and devise a pattern that will help you to build a poem on the subject of *Truth*.

For example, taking line 4 you might come up with a generalising idea like:

If truth be told

climate change is...

our oceans are...

each tree...

all the animals...

every human being...

if truth be told

If truth be told

wars are...

people will...

This gives you a pattern for each stanza you want to write: the opening line sets the tone [in this case it will be ironic – the *if* really meaning you are definitely going to tell the truth, so watch out!]; the closing line for each stanza is a declaration that you have indeed told the truth.

You can personalise this pattern. For example,

If truth be told
 I have doubts
 I have told lies
 I swim in dreams
 I struggle in forests
 I try
if truth be told

[And the above is truthful/honest: ‘truth’ is not always about perfection].

Another approach could be to take line 3 and make it a pattern like this:

Truth	Whole Truth	Nothing But the Truth
<i>Eyes see</i>	<i>see you</i>	<i>but yours do not see me</i>
<i>Hands feel</i>	<i>feel touch</i>	<i>and know the truth</i>
<i>Land lives</i>	<i>lives by sea</i>	<i>where shorelines breathe</i>
<i>Speech shares</i>	<i>shares us</i>	<i>when only I remember</i>
<i>Thoughts talk</i>	<i>talk with yours</i>	<i>trying always to believe</i>
<i>Writing reveals</i>	<i>reveals words</i>	<i>and you imagine them</i>

The above is being imaginative about using ‘truth’ for your writing. Not everything you write has to refer directly to ‘truth’ as an idea. The **most important** idea on *National Poetry Day* is to use its theme to encourage you to write, and hopefully to write poetically. Here, the headings suggest increasing stages of truths.

That’s the Truth.