

POETRY CHALLENGE 1: maggy and milly and molly and may

The first rule of poetry is that there are no hard and fast rules in poetry! Some poems fill books, others have only one line. There are lots of different styles of poetry, and I'll introduce you to some over the coming weeks. But the joy of poetry is that you can be really creative and experiment with words and ideas. So have fun!

'maggy and milly and molly and may'

maggy and milly and molly and may
went down to the beach(to play one day)

and maggie discovered a shell that sang
so sweetly she couldn't remember her troubles, and

milly befriended a stranded star
whose rays five languid fingers were;

and molly was chased by a horrible thing
which raced sideways while blowing bubbles: and

may came home with a smooth round stone
as small as a world and as large as alone.

For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)
its always ourselves we find in the sea

e. e. cummings (1894-1962)

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QUESTIONS:

1. Do you like this poem? Hate it? Why? How does it make you feel? (No right or wrong answers here.)
2. What do you think was the horrible thing that chased Molly?

CHALLENGE:

Can you rewrite the poem? Imagine you are going down to the beach with your friends. Add their names into the first line instead (you could even change the beach to farm/park etc.) and tell us what you think each of your friends would find there.

FURTHER NOTES AND IDEAS:

There are a few interesting and unusual things about this poem. Often a poem sticks with a rhythm or rhyme, whereas in this one the rhythm sometimes changes. (You could think about why the poet might have done this. Is there still a rhythm in the poem? Is there a consistent rhyme?)

This poet often used lower case letters instead of capitals, which is a feature of his work. Why do you think he did this? You could research this on the internet, or find out more about e e cummings here: https://kids.kiddle.co/E._E._Cummings