

# Exploring Backyard Mysteries



Poems by  
New York Poets  
Pre-School through High School

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUBS OF NEW YORK STATE  
2021

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## INTRODUCTION

The poetry you are about to read includes some of the winners in the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State Special Projects for Youth Contests for 2021. It is open to all children from Pre-School through High School.

We publish the rules in “the News” online at [fgcnys.com](http://fgcnys.com). We provide Directors, Youth Chairmen, and Teachers with sample poems including: traditional, blank verse, cinquains, diamond, acrostic, and Haiku. This helps our leaders bring out . . .

**“The poem in every child”**

## Mysteries Await

I walk out the door and breathe the fresh air.

I smell a mystery or is that just the scent of fresh pear?

I pull out my magnifying glass and hope to find a rabbit  
or squirrel, who has committed a crime.

I skip and twirl all over the yard  
inspecting every pebble and leaf as if I were a guard.

My mother calls, "Dinner is ready."  
I guess the backyard mysteries will just have to wait  
because right now I am running late.

*Leyla Binger, 8th grade, age 13, District 2,  
Dix Hills Garden Club*





## Out Back

Trees are swaying  
In the summertime out back  
On hot days and nights

*Rowen McCarthy, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Leaves

Leaves falling out back  
The leaves are falling east  
Kids jumping in leaves



*Zoe Jollie, grade 3, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Garden Gnome

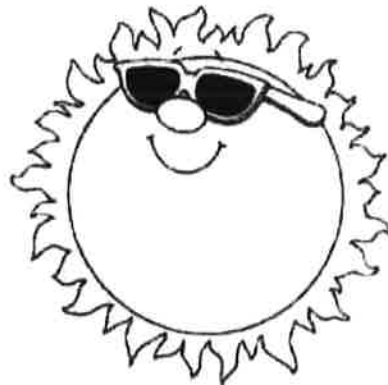
Garden gnome  
next to a plant  
having fun

*Riley Cooper, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## The Sun Shine

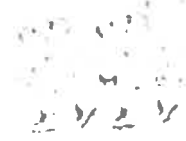
The birds are singing, the pool is clean and the sky is blue like a blueberry. The chickens are hungry. I jumped in the pool, the water splashing. The deer are running and the squirrels are gliding. It is a sunny day.

*Elijah Meyerson, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Snowy Fun

Snow glistening out back.  
Children playing out back on ice.  
Seeing deer fun fast.



*Liam Whithourn, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## The Backyard

A place where the  
flowers grow and bloom.  
Climbing trees with  
friends and exploring.  
Finding new plants, the backyard  
is the best.

*Adrianna Chapman, grade 3, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



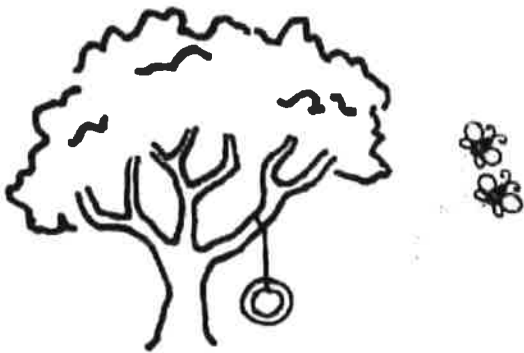
## Backyard Bees

We walk to the tire swing hanging  
from the tree.

Uh oh, when we get in,  
there are bees!

We run, run, run away,  
and laugh so hard  
that we sway.

*Noel Banik, grade 4, age 10, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Garden

Garden

Pretty, outside,  
Colors, picking, seeding,  
gardens make me happy  
Plants

*Phoenix Hosier, grade 3, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Backyard Memories

Barking wolf at night by a fire.

A bird in a nest

Clucking chickens in a coop

Kicking in a pool

Yards of grass blowing in the wind

A price of a leaf in the air

Rain dancing in the air

Deer in the woods

My cat in a tree

Eight owls in a nest

My brother on a bike

Owls in the air

Rain is wet on the grass

Ice cream is melting in the hot sun

Eggs in a tree

Seeing the beautiful trees

*Margaret Geiger, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*





## Spring Day

Lawn is getting mowed. Swings are being swung.  
Kids are running through the grass.  
The sun is shining. The flowers are blooming red.  
The kids are playing.  
The sun is shining. The kids are playing out back.  
It is a nice day!

*Natalie Thompson, grade 3, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Exploring Backyard

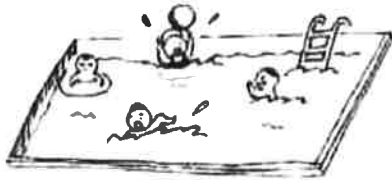
I was exploring the woods  
My brother put on his hood.  
He said boo.  
My friend flew.  
We ran back to the house,  
we saw a mouse.  
Our cat caught it but the mouse fought it.  
The mouse was trying to defend.  
It finally came to the end.



*Mason Colao, grade 3, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Pool Party

I love my backyard  
My cousins  
Come over  
Every summer.  
We have a  
Pool party  
Cannonball!  
Catch the volleyball  
In midair.  
It's fun!



*Silas Cameron, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Looking for Flowers

Looking  
for flowers  
in my backyard  
so much to search  
I found one  
near my  
pool.



*Hannah Miller, grade 3, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## My Backyard

My yard makes me think of deer.  
Deer make me think of grass.  
Grass makes me think of bunnies.  
Bunnies make me think of carrots.  
Carrots make me think of the sun.  
The sun makes me think of deer grazing.  
Deer grazing makes me think of my backyard.



*Valentina Multari, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Home

Home.

Home is my yard.

I see a bee  
and a dog  
maybe a cat or two.  
That's my yard.  
That's my home.



*Seamus Palmateer, grade 2, age 7, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Grandma's Backyard



The windows  
Are eyes.  
The shadow  
is the nose.  
The roof  
Is the hair.  
The bricks on the bottom  
Is the mouth  
Grandma's house

*Odinn Bonesteel, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Looking in My Backyard

Looking in my backyard I see  
deer eating grass  
a squirrel collecting nuts  
trees swaying in the wind  
grass covering the dirt.  
But wait . . .  
What's looking at me?  
An owl in the tree.



*Mason McGovern, grade 2, age 7, District 3  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Backyard

My backyard  
Has lots of birds  
And foxes.  
The fox is adorable.  
In the winter  
We saw it pounce  
On a mouse,  
And my dad  
Saw it being chased  
Away by a deer.  
Even though the fox  
Eats our chickens,  
He's adorable.  
But the fox went away  
I think.



*Angeline Harford, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Season Memories

Snow drifts fall from the sky pups hop through. Snow balls  
sailing in the air. In summer pools are filled up kids splash  
around. Spring buds pop up and flowers bloom.

*Sydney Kratochwill-Hutton, grade 3, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## My Dog

ZOOM

ZOOM

ZOOM

My dog runs around the backyard.

FAST FAST FAST

My dog is fast in the backyard.

GO GO GO

She goes zoom in the backyard.

ZOOM FAST ZOOM

All around the backyard.



THROW THROW THROW

She chases the ball in the backyard.

JUMP JUMP JUMP

She jumps on Josh in the backyard.

LICK LICK LICK

She licks Josh's face in the backyard.

FUN FUN FUN

Playing with my dog in the backyard.

*Parker Earle, grade 2, age 7, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Cat Hunt

I used to hunt  
In my backyard  
With my cats  
Oreo, Cubbs or Nameless  
Nameless is a small black cat.  
Oreo is a black & white cat.  
Cubbs is a black and gray cat.  
Tracing,  
Pouncing,  
Catching,  
Hunting cats.

*Ayden Shader, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Fire



Made a fire  
it was pretty  
I saw blue fire  
I said blue fire  
Done

*Madelyn Dedrick, grade 3, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## A Mermaid's Backyard

You'll see sand dollars, sea stars, shells, and more!  
A coral reef with anemones and pearls to explore.  
Sea horses, sea turtles, and fish swim all around.  
A mermaid's backyard is what you've just found.  
Don't forget the sea grasses that grow very tall.  
Summer, the beautiful Mermaid remembers it all.



*Summer Vizzie, grade 1, age 6, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## My Dog and the Garden

My dog has a hat  
He loves to play with my cat  
He chases the goats  
And watches the boats  
But sometimes is a brat  
He digs up the plants  
And mom doesn't like that!  
So we re-plant our flowers  
Which can take hours and hours  
But we like to make the bees happy  
But Waylon will continue to dig up flowers  
See, he is a brat!



*Pierce Seaburg, grade 1, age 6, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## A Fairy's Paradise

I have many memories of a magical place in my backyard.  
We call it "The Fairy Forest," so picture perfect for a postcard.  
We hung fairy houses and windchimes in the trees.  
They are very welcoming to fairies, birds, and bees.  
I remember bright flowers and shiny crystals on the ground.  
I even saw ladybugs, caterpillars, and butterflies all around.  
When I am real quiet and explore some more,  
I sometimes find evidence that fairies were there before.  
I plan to have more adventures in this very marvelous spot.  
For it is a Fairy's Paradise and my special place that I love a lot.



*Isla Vizzie , grade 4, age 9, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## My Backyard

When I walk outside in my backyard  
I see  
my dog running  
bees buzzing around  
trees slightly shaking  
deer grazing on the grass  
chickens pecking for worms  
birds chirping a song  
When you walk in your backyard  
What do you see?



*Luca Multari, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Backyard Feelings



Backyard feelings  
Leaves are swaying  
Trees are growing  
Flowers are blooming  
Walnuts are dropping  
Rain is gone  
Sun is shining

*Alana Ames, grade 3, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*

## Wildlife Exposed

Surrounded by trees and covered with grass  
the mysterious backyard is where I can let time pass.  
The mystery of birds flying and clouds floating by  
when I look up at the sky.  
The mystery of squirrels jumping from tree to tree  
while hiding their acorns so I don't see.  
A turtle comes out from under the brush  
and oddly crawls away in no rush  
Secretly watching wildlife carry on  
I discover mysteries as wildlife keeps on.



*Abigail O'Reilly, grade 4, age 9, District 2,  
Dix Hills Garden Club*

## Wonders Do Exist

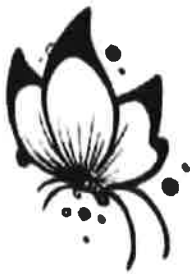
Put rain boots on,  
Step outside,  
Nothing to fear,  
For it's where all wonder resides.

Step through delicate ferns,  
See the flowers,  
Find the worms.

Got to your tree,  
Bark so lovely and rough,  
Sit on the roots,  
So resilient and tough.

Surrounded by beauty  
Feel so free,  
All the plants,  
All the bees.

Out for hours,  
Watching butterflies hover,  
So much to see,  
So much to discover.



Birds' nests,  
Foxes,  
Rabbits too,  
Earthworms,  
Robins,  
Flowers of every shape and hue.

Pinwheels,  
Gardens,

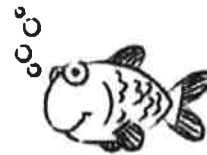


Leaves and twigs,  
Roses,  
Tulips,  
Even wee little pigs!

So as you can read,  
With the magic of flowers,  
Wisdom of trees,  
Tart taste of cherries,  
Dancing of leaves,  
Jumping of raindrops,  
And colorful mist,  
Your backyard's the place,  
Where all wonders exist.

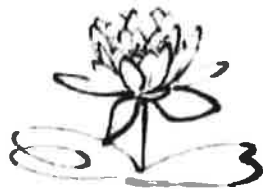
*Norihanna Sky Korzenko, grade 5, age 11, Distict 2,  
Dix Hills Garden Club*

### A Colorful Fish



There was a colorful fish in the pond  
He had a magical flowery wand  
He swam by a pink water lily  
Made it white, which was silly  
So the pond will look different from now on

*Maya Ullman, grade 4, age 9, District 2,  
Dix Hills Garden Club*



## My Yard

My yard makes me think of deer.  
Deer make me think of grass.  
Grass makes me think of bunnies.  
Bunnies make me think of holes.  
Holes make me think of flowers.  
Flowers make me think of deer.

*Juliana Jenes, grade 2, age 8, District 3,  
Athens Community Garden Club*



## Mysterious Lost Things

Treasure  
Shiny, Sparkly  
Searching, Running, Yelling  
Coins, Bells, Gems, Paper clips  
Jumping, Dancing, Digging  
Surprised, Excited  
Victory

*Rhiannon Aull, grade 2, age 7, District 2,  
Dix Hills Garden Club*

## Types of Poems

**DIAMOND POEMS** start and end with nouns that are opposites. The poems have seven lines. The middle line is the longest and marks the change from one noun to the other. The remaining lines are filled out with participles and adjectives.

### The Difference

*Gabriella Williams, grade 4, age 8, District 6*

Summer  
Red, Violet  
Bursting, Enjoying, Gardening  
Beautiful, Bright, Cold, Lifeless  
Sleeping, Cooling, Freezing  
Blue, Snowy  
Winter

**CINQUAINS** are five line descriptive poems. Line 1 is a one word title. Line 2 is two words describing the title. Line 3 is three words expressing action. Line 4 is four words expressing feelings. And line 5 is one word—a synonym for the title.

### Garden

*Marc Spadaccini, grade 4, age 10, District 9*

Garden,  
Sweet, Delicious,  
Planting, Growing, Picking,  
Gardening makes me hungry  
Plants.

**HAIKU** are three line nature poems. Line 1 has five syllables. Line 2 has seven syllables. And line 3 has five syllables.

### Flower River

*Brice Buccolo, grade 5, age 10, District 5*

Dark salmon flowers,  
Always swaying in the breeze,  
Like some swimming fish.

**ACROSTIC POEMS** are poems where the first letter of each line spell out a word or phrase vertically that acts as the theme or message of the poem.

**Ants**

*Caleb McGrail, grade 4, age 9, District 3*

Ants are an army  
Numbers aren't beyond ants  
There are thousands of ants  
Surely they outnumber the human race

**LIMERICKS** are fun five-line poems with a distinctive rhythm. The first, second and fifth lines are longer than the third and fourth lines. The rhyming pattern is AABBA. The longer A lines rhyme with each other and the shorter B lines rhyme with each other.

**Daisy**

*William Clark*

I picked the first daisy of spring,  
Was that such a terrible thing?  
The pink and the white  
Made a wonderful sight  
But the bumblebee threatened to sting!

**FREE VERSE POEMS** have no set meter or rhythm. The lines may or may not rhyme.

**Fairy House**

*Ava Krstovich, grade K, age 5, District 3*

I built a house with my family  
Of leaves, sticks and flowers  
A piece of wool for a comfy bed  
I hope a fairy will come  
For a place to rest her head.

## **Acknowledgments**

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