

TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 16, 2014



*Yea, take thy fill of love, because thy will
Chose love not in the shallows but the deep*

Christina Rossetti

Christina Rossetti was born in London to Italian immigrants in 1830. She grew up in a literary environment, as her father was a poet. Her mother, a governess, educated her at home. Her brother Dante Gabriel was a poet as well as a painter, while her brother William Michael an art and literary critic and editor. Her sister Maria also wrote an important work on Dante. As children, the Rossetti siblings produced their own newspaper.

Rossetti's first poems were printed privately by her grandfather as early as 1842 and distributed to friends and family. Two of her poems were published in *The Athenaeum* in 1847 and she had several poems printed in *The Germ*, the Pre-Raphaelite journal founded by her brother and his friends. She published her first collection, *Goblin Market and Other Poems*, in 1862, followed by *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems* in 1866 and *Sing-Song*, an illustrated collection for children in 1872. She fell ill in the 1880s and was unable to work or maintain an active social life but continued writing poems, with additional collections published in 1881 and 1892.

Her poems—most often ballads and lyric poems—were marked by themes of religion, mortality, and loss as well as the inconstancy of love. Her work is known for its emotional intensity and its economy. She is often compared to Elizabeth Barrett Browning, among the most prominent Victorian poets. She died in London in 1894.

Want to take your favorite poet to work for Take Your Poet to Work Day?



1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work as shown



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