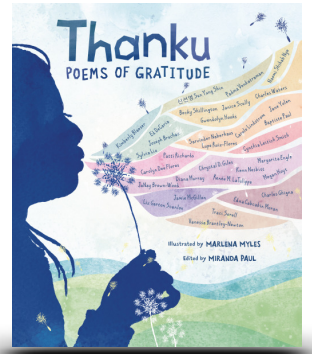


How to Write an **Etheree** Poem

An Etheree poem contains 10 lines. The first line has a single syllable, and each line “grows” by one syllable until the tenth line has 10 syllables. Liz Garton Scanlon’s poem “All This” is an Etheree.



All This

By Liz Garton Scanlon

Snow
a book
hot cocoa
a bubble bath
and two curled-up cats.
Another book, more snow
and those cats—oh, how they purr.
Even when the world’s dark and cold
there is all this to be grateful for
and I purr too: Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Don't be fooled! Even though the fourth line has only three words, there are still four beats (called syllables), because “bubble” is a 2-syllable word and “a” and “bath” are each one syllable (2+1+1=4).

Each line has one more syllable than the next. All together, they express a theme or experience.

Try writing an Etheree—here are some simple steps!

1. Think up a topic and brainstorm words, feelings, or experiences to describe it.
2. Write a short paragraph that describes the feeling or experience. Count the syllables in your sentences to see how close you are to having 55 syllables (this is how many syllables an Etheree will have in total).
3. Use a thesaurus to rewrite your sentences as 10 lines of poetry—putting only a one-syllable word on line one, two syllables on line two, and so on. Have a friend help you with word swapping and counting syllables.

Bonus Step #4—share your Etheree with [Thanku: Poems of Gratitude](#) authors by asking a grown-up to tag @LGartonScanlon on social media!