



Poetry &
the Creative
Mind

academy of
american poets

April 24, 2025

7:30 PM ET/ 4:30 PM PT

Watch Party Tips & Tricks

Thank you for your interest in hosting a Poetry & the Creative Mind watch party! This star-studded celebration honors poetry's essential place in our culture and supports poetry education nationwide. These tips and tricks have been compiled by Academy staff. Every gathering is unique, so we've outlined a number of ideas for you to pick and choose.

You can find more info on our [Watch Party page](#).

1. **Be prepared:** Check the link, your internet connection, and your sound before your guests arrive. We suggest testing your sound with another video (since our broadcast won't begin until 7:30 ET).
2. **Get into the spirit:** Create a playlist to view before the event. [The Academy's YouTube page features videos of poets reading their own poems.](#)
3. **Make the chat visible in the YouTube settings:** Our poet hosts will be sharing the names of watch party groups in the event chat.
4. **Follow along with the program:** You can view the names of the readers, read along with the poems, and learn more about the poets. The program page link will be available 30 before the event starts on the event YouTube page.
5. **Help fundraise for poets and poetry!** Ask attendees to donate in support of the Academy's vital educational programs using their smartphones, or make a computer available. You can donate at: poets.org/live.
6. **Refreshments are always a hit at parties!** Create a poetry-themed menu. We've curated a list of poems on the reverse to inspire your menu.
7. **Have a "share your favorite poem" raffle.**
8. **Play poetry bingo:** Ask your attendees to make predictions about the poems and poets they'll hear over the course of the evening. Categories can include poets they expect to hear; specific forms (sonnet, villanelle, haiku, etc.); and particular themes (grief, love, friendship, etc).

Poetry to Inspire your Menu

Chicken Adobo

Sarah Gambito, "[On How to Use this Book](#)"

Kitchen Table Stew

Joy Harjo, "[Perhaps the World Ends Here](#)"

When the Burning Begins Cornbread

Patricia K. Smith, "[When the Burning Begins](#)"

This is Just Souffle

William Carlos Williams, "[This is Just to Say](#)"

Potluck

Maryfrances Wagner, "[What I Am In My Kitchen](#)"

Chips and Smoked Green Tomato Salsa

Tess Taylor, "[Green Tomatoes in Fire Season](#)"

Bittersweet Fruit Salad

Joseph O. Legaspi, "[Raspberries](#)"

Brenda Shaughnessy, "[Blueberries for Cal](#)"

Strawberrying Shortcake

May Swenson, "[Strawberrying](#)"

Guilt-Free Chocolate Cake

Tove Ditlevsen, translated by Jennifer Russell and Sophia Hersi Smith
"[Self-Portrait 1](#)"

Ice-Cold Lemonade

Julius C. Wright, "[Going to the Picnic](#)"

Peach Nectar

Li-Young Lee, "[From Blossoms](#)"

Having a Rum and Coke with You

Frank O'Hara, "[Having a Coke with You](#)"

Dark Rum & Tonic

Molly Fisk, "[Dark Rum & Tonic](#)"