

Poetry &  
the Creative  
Mind

academy of  
american poets

April 24, 2025

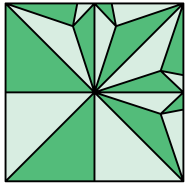
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## *Watch Party Tips & Tricks for Educators*

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. **Offer extra credit:** You can offer extra credit just for attending, or deepen the experience by asking your students to respond to the evening.
  - a. Many students feel like it's less of an assignment when asked to write a poem based on a prompt. We've provided a prompt on the reverse based on a poem featured during the program.
  - b. Ask them to write a short essay about one of the poems read during the program, asking your students to select a favorite selection from the evening and sharing what that poem means to them.



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## Special Writing Prompt

BY YESENIA MONTILLA



“Let Them Not Say”

by Jane Hirshfield is a poem about many things: survival, resiliency, action. However, what strikes me most is how it is also in conversation with archive.

—YESENIA MONTILLA

I'd love for you to engage with this poem by writing a piece using the repetition “let them not say” and applying that to a moment in your life that you are desperately trying to get down right. A moment that you do not want left to interpretation.

**YESENIA MONTILLA** is an Afro-Latina poet, translator, and professor of Cuban, Dominican, and Puerto Rican ancestry. She is the author of *Muse Found in a Colonized Body* (Four Way Books, 2022), a finalist for a 2023 NAACP Image Award, and *The Pink Box* (Aquarius Press, 2015).

