

unique and united

I AM/WE WILL



 **students**
REBUILD

 **CREATIVE**
VISIONS

a POETRY activity FOR EARTH Day & GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE Day

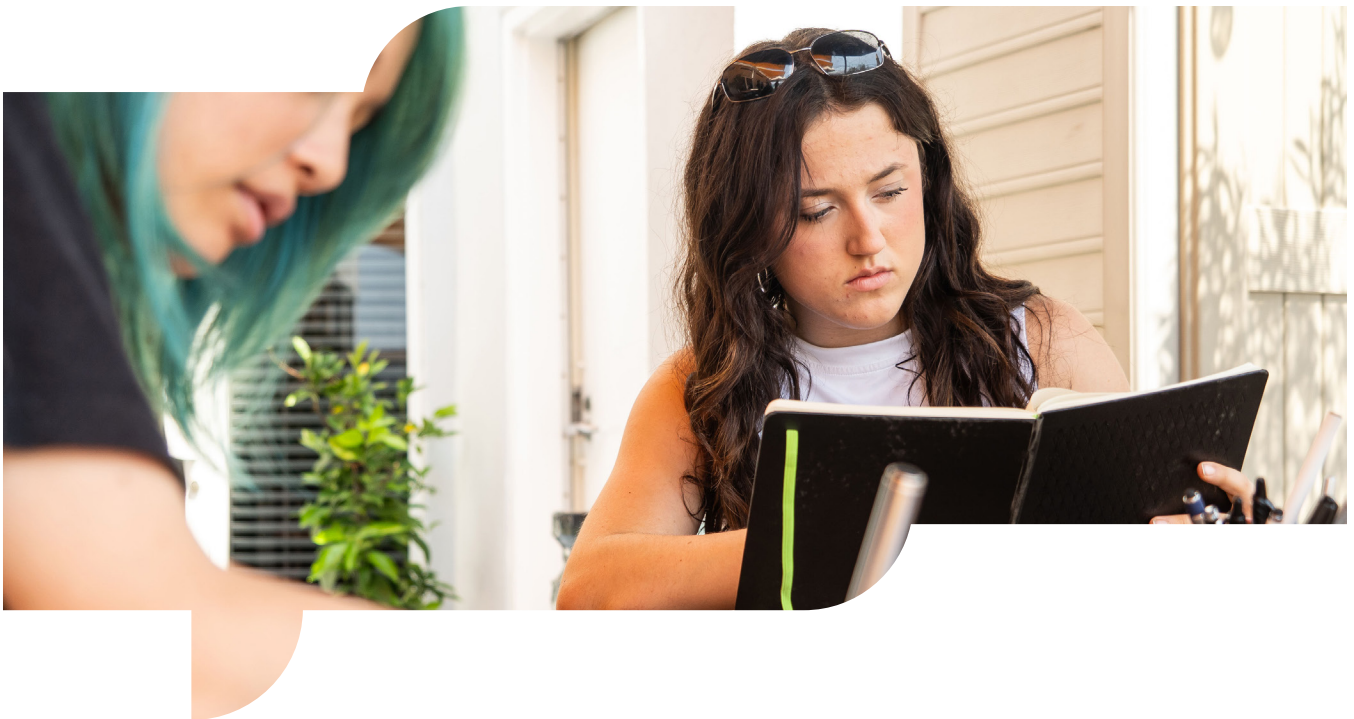
Overview

Students write and share original poems for the Students Rebuild Unique and United campaign that reflect on their relationship with the Earth and their role as young changemakers, blending the spirit of **Earth Day** (April 22) and **Global Youth Service Day** (April 25–27).

Time: 45-60 minutes

Grade: 4-12

**For lower grades, this activity can be adapted into a visual arts experience. Students can draw or paint their responses to the prompts instead of writing them.*



activity

1 set the scene

Ask students to think of a moment when they felt connected to nature. What did they notice? What did they feel?

2 THE POETIC SPARK

Read one of the poems from the list below. Afterward, ask students what the poem is about. What images do they notice? What seems important to the poet?

Nature

- “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver
- “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver
- “The Peace of Wild Things” by Wendell Berry
- “Earthrise” by Amanda Gorman
- “The Wild Swans at Coole” by William Butler Yeats
- “The Caterpillar” by Christina Rossetti
- “At the Zoo” by William Thackeray

Kindness, Service, and Unity

- “Gate A-4” by Naomi Shihab Nye
- “When Giving is All You Have” by Alberto Rios
- “A Conceit” by Maya Angelou
- “Kindness” by Naomi Shihab Nye
- “The Friendly Cow” by Robert Louis Stevenson

3 WRITING THE POEM

Students will write poems in a two-part structure, exploring their personal roles as individuals living in and interacting with the natural world.

1. “I Am”

Each line will describe a sensory experience from the modern world, culminating in the student identifying how they belong in that natural world.



2. "I Will"

Each line is a personal pledge of service or stewardship of the natural world, culminating in a final line that indicates the unifying factors humans have as arbiters of the natural world.

Poem Template

Students may revise or expand beyond these lines once they've got a draft going. Advise students to use this structure as they write their poems.

I Am / We Will

I hear... (a sound from the natural world)

I see... (something remarkable from the natural world)

I smell... (a memorable scent from the natural world)

I feel... (an emotion experienced by being in the natural world)

I am... (a descriptive image of yourself connecting to the lines above)

I will... (one action you commit to for the natural world)

I will... (one way you hope to inspire others)

We are... (an image of all humans united in preserving the natural world)

4

OUT LOUD

Allow students who wish to share their completed poems with the class.

5

SUBMIT

Submit your students' poems at Studentsrebuild.org. Creative Visions will donate \$5, up to \$1 million for each submission or student engaged. The project is open from September 15, 2025 - June 1, 2026.

