

Tarot Poems (8 wk, Wet.Ink)

Spring 2023, Writer's Center

Whether or not you believe in divination, it's easy to see the appeal of the Tarot's symbolism. The Tarot has been used as a common source of imagery and inspiration in poetry as far back as the 1500s! In this course, we'll use the Tarot to encounter and apply universal themes to our writing. Each week we'll explore a different aspect of the tarot (history, suits, major arcana, ritual, layouts, relationships, and more), and read 1-2 source texts by authors who explore these themes. The readings will be paired with a brief experiment to guide you into the prompt, and help you "draw out" images unique to the deck you choose. Every week will also include optional viewing/listening assignments to provide multiple entry points into new work. You'll be encouraged to post your fresh drafts if you like for light criticism and positive peer feedback in the weekly forums. By the end of class, you'll have 7-8 fresh drafts and a number of fun ways you can use the Tarot in your writing even after the course has ended. *Please have a deck you can use in the experiments and pre-writes each week before our class begins.*

Summer Poems Inspired by Mary Oliver (8 wk, Wet.Ink)

Winter Poems Inspired by Mary Oliver (8 wk, Wet.Ink)

Can be taken independently or together - material is entirely distinct in each of these classes.

Summer 2023, Poet Camp

In this class, we'll reconnect with the solace and joy that nature can provide, using Mary Oliver's work for thematic inspiration, instruction, and as a starting point to launch our own poems. Each week, we'll consider a brief reading by Mary Oliver (a single poem, essay, or prose poem) placed in conversation with equally brief works from kindred spirit poets and writers in other genres. From these readings, we'll write new poems from a prompt linked to that week's topic. Every week will also include optional viewing/listening assignments, all inspired by Mary Oliver's dictum of "Pay attention, be astonished, and tell about it." You'll be encouraged to post your fresh drafts if you like for light criticism and positive peer feedback in the weekly forums.

**Very Superstitious (Our poems are off the wall!) (8 wk, Wet.Ink)
Late Summer 2023, Poet Camp**

In this class we'll write lucky charms, invent horoscope poems, divine lines from Tarot readings, and take inspiration from lucky charms and everyday magic. We'll retell and reinvent old wives tales. Each week we'll read 1-2 source texts paired with a brief example text from the folklore focus for the week. Every week will also include optional viewing/listening assignments to provide multiple entry points into inspiration. From these readings, we'll write new poems born out of a prompt linked to that week's topic, which you're encouraged to share for light criticism and positive peer feedback.

**Muse as Dryad: Poems from the Woods
Fall, Poet Camp**

In this class, we'll dive into poems of the forest, to the places where, as Robert MacFarlane writes "anyone who has walked the woods knows, they are places of correspondence, of call and answer." We'll consider the ways our work can grow through examining our feelings and knowledge about trees. We'll write poems "from the forest," and scale the green canopy for more inspiration, found in fairy tales, forest creatures, and facts exhaled via our poems, in sync with the lungs of the planet. We'll find solace and healing in our time spent virtually forest-bathing. Most of our class time will be spent on experiments and prompts geared towards generating new work. By the end of class you'll have several fresh drafts, and will have found a way into and back out of the woods.