

TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 17, 2013



Emily Dickinson

*"Saying nothing...
sometimes says the most."*

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, MA, in 1830, the daughter of state and federal politician Edward Dickinson. A prolific poet, Dickinson was known to draft poems on the backs of envelopes and chocolate wrappers. Nearly 1800 of her poems were discovered by her family following her death in 1886, many in 40 handbound volumes she had sewn together, written in her own hand with her famously unorthodox punctuation.

The enigmatic poet is remembered as a recluse, rarely leaving the Dickinson estate. While she did receive callers at her home, conversations were often held from opposite sides of a closed door. She lived with her sister, Lavinia, while her brother Austin and his wife, Susan Gilbert, lived down a narrow path on the property. Her writing reflects profound loneliness as well as a deep capacity for love and affection, much of which is believed to have been shared with Gilbert.

Her first collection of poems, *Poems by Emily Dickinson*, was published four years after her death, with *Poems: Second Series* and *Poems: Third Series* following in the next several years. Like Walt Whitman (who she reportedly never read), she is considered one of the most influential poets in the emergence of a distinctly American poetic voice.

Visitors to Emily Dickinson's grave can witness a lasting image of her perspective on life. The etching on her stone marking the date of her death bears the words "Called Back."

Want to take your favorite poet to work for Take Your Poet to Work Day?



Here's how:

1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work as shown



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