

# TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 15, 2015

## Anna Akhmatova

Russian modernist poet Anna Akhmatova was born in 1889 in what is now Ukraine to a family with aristocratic roots. She began writing poetry at the age of 11 and later attended law school. Born Anna Gorenko, she took her grandmother's name, Akhmatova, as a pen name in order to distance her family from her work.

Her first collection, *Vecher (Evening)*, was published in 1912 and was immediately successful. While Akhmatova's work was quite popular, she faced censorship by Stalinist authorities. She divorced her first husband, Nikolay Gumilev, in 1918. He was later executed for his role in an anti-Bolshevik plot. Akhmatova would marry again; her third husband dying in a labor camp. Her son, Lev, was also imprisoned for a time.

For her part, Akhmatova opted to stay in Russia and witness the atrocities through her poetry, which was at one time banned. She was later permitted to publish her poetry, though it was pulled again shortly thereafter. Akhmatova is considered one of the most celebrated poets of the Silver Age. She died in 1966.



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*You will hear thunder and remember me,  
And think: "She wanted storms."*

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

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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