

TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

July 20, 2016



*My life was wide and wild,
and who can know my heart?*

Judith Wright

Australian poet and activist Judith Wright was born in New South Wales in 1915. Following the death of her mother in 1927 and her father's remarriage in 1928, Wright was sent away to school where an interest in politics and social issues began to take root.

She later studied at the University of Sydney, though she left without completing a degree and found work as a secretary. She returned home during the war to help her father on his farm in 1942, during which time she began a relationship with Jack McKinney. Around 1940 Wright began losing her hearing. Her first collection of poetry, *The Moving Image*, was published in 1946. She would go on to publish several collections, including *Woman to Man*, *The Gateway*, and *The Two Fires*. Wright's poetry focused on the Australian environment and Aboriginal land rights.

Wright later moved to Queensland with her daughter and began working at the University of Queensland in 1967. She co-founded the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in 1963, and was the 2nd Australian to receive the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry in 1991. By the early 1990s, she was completely deaf. Wright died in 2000.

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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