

# TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

Celebrated the 3rd Wednesday in July

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## Jorge Luis Borges

One of the founders of post-modernist literature, Argentine poet and author Jorge Luis Borges, born August 24, 1899, wrote his first story at age seven and was first published at age nine, when a Buenos Aires newspaper printed his translation of *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde. He first garnered international attention many decades later when he won the International Publishers Prize, after which his short story collection, *Ficciones*, was published in six different countries.

Better known for his fiction work, Borges was influenced by Edgar Allan Poe and Franz Kafka, though Walt Whitman had a profound impact on his poetry. His first poem, in fact, "Hymn to the Sea," is seen as having been written in Whitman's style. Borges was recognized as someone deeply immersed in world literature and despite his first spoken language being Spanish, he learned to read English first. His first collection of short stories, *The Garden of Forking Paths*, was published in 1941, after Borges nearly died due to complications suffered following a head wound.

Borges worked in a library for a time, but was fired during the years of the Peron government. As his eyesight began to fail, he started on the lecture circuit. Following the ouster of Peron, Borges was appointed head of the national library and also taught at the University of Buenos Aires. Borges died in 1986.



"Nothing is built on stone;  
all is built on sand,  
but we must build  
as if the sand were stone."

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## How to take your favorite with you on 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



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