

Hello! And Happy National Poetry Month!

As the Poet Laureate for the State of Kansas, I hope that everyone has a chance to read and even write a poem this April.

This poem and the fill-in-the-blank prompt is designed for adults and celebrates all sorts of wonderful foods and seasons in Kansas.

If you would like to do so, please feel free to share your results by posting on social media and tagging: @poetlaureateofkansas on Facebook and/or @poetlaureateofkansas_ on Instagram. I would love to see everyone's wonderful poems!

—Traci Brimhall, Poet Laureate of Kansas

ODE TO KANSAS

After Kevin Young's "Ode to the Midwest"

I want cinnamon rolls
with my chili, want bbq
with cornbread. I want

potatoes still in their jackets
smothered in dairy, butter
still melting. I want State Fair

funnel cakes, but I want to eat
it on the rides, let powdered sugar
freckle my face as the Ferris Wheel

brings me closer to clouds.
In the fall, I want coffee while
the sun starts to rise slow, the last

of the sunflower's strength aching
towards the new light. I want
simmered soups and farmers market

corn. I want to spend a lazy
afternoon walking to the bakery,
dreamless, happy, holding your hand.



ODE TO _____
(favorite place in Kansas)

I want _____ with _____
(food 1) (food 2)

And _____ with _____
(food 3) (food 4)

I want _____ that's _____, _____, and _____
(food 5) (adjective) (adjective) (adjective)

I want _____ from _____
(food 6) (place where you get this food)

I want to _____ it while I _____.
(verb) (verb)

In _____, I want _____.
(season/time) (food 7)

I want _____, I want _____, I want _____.
(flavor) (flavor) (food 8)

I want to be full of _____ during _____.
(emotion) (weather/season)

And _____ to the _____ with _____.
(verb) (place to eat) (person you love)