

# 25 Poems to Cherish the Freedom of Assembly

The freedom of assembly is a fundamental human right, enshrined in the constitutions of many nations. It allows individuals to gather together peacefully to express their views, advocate for change, or simply connect with others who share their interests. Throughout history, poetry has played a powerful role in amplifying the voices of those who fight for this essential right.



## 25 Poems to Cherish Freedom of Assembly

by Andrew Bushard

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The following collection of 25 poems explores the many facets of freedom of assembly, from its importance in fostering unity and empowering marginalized voices to its role in challenging injustice and inspiring social change.

### 1. "I Will Not Cease" by Audre Lorde

In this powerful poem, Audre Lorde celebrates the strength and resilience of marginalized communities standing together. She writes: "For they will not love us / and we will not be loved by the white fathers. / But we / will love each other fiercely as we learn to see ourselves in their absence."

## **2. "Ode to Freedom" by Langston Hughes**

Langston Hughes's stirring poem pays homage to the transformative power of freedom, particularly for those who have historically been denied it. He writes: "O Freedom! / Free as the eagle's wing / breaking into the sunlit sky."

## **3. "A Litany for Survival" by Audre Lorde**

Audre Lorde's poem is a powerful call for unity and solidarity among marginalized groups. She writes: "For we have been so often betrayed / betrayed by those who should love us / and should protect us / that we no longer trust."

## **4. "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman**

Amanda Gorman's poem, delivered at President Biden's inauguration, is a celebration of resilience and a call to unity. She writes: "When day comes we step out of the shade, / aflame and unafraid / The new dawn blooms as we free it / For there is always light, / if only we're brave enough to see it / If only we're brave enough to be it."

## **5. "We Rise" by Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou's poem is a powerful affirmation of the strength and perseverance of the human spirit. She writes: "Still I rise. / I rise / I rise."

## **6. "For My People" by Margaret Walker**

Margaret Walker's poem is a moving tribute to the struggles and triumphs of the African American community. She writes: "For my people / bending beneath the weight / of history / I have no tears."

### **7. "The Weary Blues" by Langston Hughes**

Langston Hughes's poem captures the power of music to uplift and inspire oppressed communities. He writes: "The Weary Blues (reel and moan) / You know, old Weary Blues (reel and moan) / Said to make me happy (reel and moan) / Said to make me happy (reel and moan)."

### **8. "Harlem (What Makes a Man)" by Langston Hughes**

In this iconic poem, Langston Hughes explores the meaning of manhood in the face of systemic racism and poverty. He writes: "What makes a man a man? / Does money-does power-does fame? / What makes a man a man?"

### **9. "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou's poem is a powerful affirmation of the resilience and strength of the human spirit. She writes: "You may write me down in history / With your bitter, twisted lies, / You may trod me in the very dirt / But still, like dust, I'll rise."

### **10. "The Storm" by William Butler Yeats**

William Butler Yeats's poem captures the tumultuous nature of social and political change. He writes: "Turning and turning in the widening gyre / The falcon cannot hear the falconer. / Things fall apart; the center cannot hold."

### **11. "The Second Coming" by William Butler Yeats**

William Butler Yeats's poem explores the chaos and upheaval of the 20th century. He writes: "Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold. / Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world."

## **12. "The Waste Land" by T.S. Eliot**

T.S. Eliot's poem is a modernist masterpiece that captures the fragmentation and disillusionment of the post-World War I era. He writes: "April is the cruelest month, breeding / Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing / Memory and desire, stirring / Dull roots with spring rain."

## **13. "Four Quartets" by T.S. Eliot**

T.S. Eliot's poem is a meditation on time, memory, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world. He writes: "Time present and time past / Are both perhaps present in time future."

## **14. "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot**

T.S. Eliot's poem is a modern masterpiece that explores the themes of alienation, loneliness, and the search for meaning. He writes: "Let us go then, you and I, / When the evening is spread out against the sky / Like a patient etherized upon a table."

## **15. "The Hollow Men" by T.S. Eliot**

T.S. Eliot's poem is a powerful meditation on the emptiness and despair of the modern world. He writes: "We are the hollow men / We are the stuffed men."

## **16. "Gerontion" by T.S. Eliot**

T.S. Eliot's poem is a meditation on aging and the loss of vitality. He writes: "Here I am, an old man in a dry month."

### 17. "Ash-Wednesday" by T.S. Eliot

T.S. Eliot's poem is a meditation on repentance and the search for spiritual redemption. He writes: "Because I do not hope to turn again / Because I do not hope / Because I do not hope / To turn."

### 18. "The Dry Salvages" by T.S. Eliot

T.S. Eliot's poem is a meditation on the relationship between the sea and human life. He writes: "I have seen the moment of my greatness flicker."

### 19. "Little Gidding" by T.S. Eliot

T.S. Eliot's poem is a meditation on the search for meaning in a chaotic world. He writes: "We shall not cease from exploration



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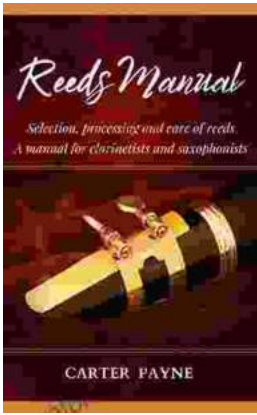
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