

DAY BY DAY



It's nine o'clock on a Saturday.

With regularity, the usual suspects
make their regular appearance,
like clockwork

they show up the next day
to worship what they want to believe,
yet still,

the next morning
they have the blues,
after which

the following evening,
they pray to make it through
at least one more day

which then, in the end,
becomes hump night,
after which,

on the next day, they realize
they are more than halfway there,
after which, they say to themselves

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“alas, Friday night has come,” but
it’s not alright if they’re still fightin’ at midnight,
when they wonder where their children are,

but not to worry,
the next day, they find out.
Then, before you know it,

it’s nine o’clock on a Saturday.

.....
April 11, 2023
 (“the following evening”)

DAY 11 PROMPT: Write a poem that begins and ends with the same line. The idea is to create a meaningful circular structure: the image that opens the poem is transformed by the poem, so that when it’s repeated, it feels new.

Craft tip: On day three I mentioned that the ending is the most important part of the poem. This is because it’s often the moment when the heart of the poem is fully revealed. Because it’s so important, the ending can often be the most difficult part of the poem to write. To get more comfortable with endings, look through a book of poems and map the logical structure of a few poems you like. Note where each turn in the poem takes place, and how each part relates to the part before (Does it build? Negate? Confirm?). Notice especially how the ending relates to the rest of the poem. Does it create a circular structure, like the one you created today? Or does it expand what came previously from the personal to the universal? Or maybe it weaves the images of the poem into a cohesive whole. Learning some foundational structures for endings will help you feel more confident writing your own.

CREDITS: Macbeth, William Shakespeare's Macbeth, [Act 5, Scene 5](#), [as performed by Patrick Stewart](#), illustration by [Robert Simpson](#). With special thanks to [Billy Joel](#) and [Elton John](#).

ABOUT 30 in 30: April is National Poetry Month. Poets participating in “30 in 30” strive to write at least one poem each day. The prompts for this series were provided by Ella Peary and Emily Harstone, hosts of a 2023 poetry workshop sponsored by [Authors Publish](#).

