

# Recipe Poem

**Step 1:** At the top of your paper, brainstorm a list of possible topics that interest you and that you might like to write about. For example:

- steps to follow in assembling some magic thing
- a cure for sadness
- making friends
- getting on your parents' good side
- organizing the perfect party
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**Step 2:** Select one of the topics and create a title for it.

**Step 3:** Create a recipe-like list of eight or more steps. Each step should combine *actions* with *ingredients*. Try to use strong action verbs and vivid nouns.

**Step 4:** Make sure that the last line makes the poem sound finished.

## Examples:

### How to Snare Romance

Walk toward the eastern horizon at sundown.  
Turn suddenly, taking care to align your heart  
With the streaked sky before you.  
Imagine the sun balanced on a distant treetop  
So far away your eyes can never see though your heart  
Knows the leaves, the bark, the number of rings.  
Take a step to your right  
For everyone you have loved  
And step forward  
For everyone who has loved you. At the end  
Of your steps, turn again, suddenly, completely, eyes closed.  
Open your heart.  
Open your eyes.  
You will be found soon.

by Randall Heeres

## Phoenix

Take a fresh week in the woods.

Clean carefully--  
plucking mosquitos,  
deer flies,  
wood ticks--

(drown these in one pint  
grain alcohol and reserve.)  
Wrap flesh lightly in flannel.

Add - three or four long walks  
(narrow trails overgrown  
in blueberries add color and flavor.)  
- a dash of thrush song  
- the flutter of bat wings  
- an owl hoot  
- a whiff of skunk (if desired)

Let rest in shade until sunset.

Then . . .

Place ingredients in covered cast iron pot.

Bake by slow campfire several hours.  
(Do not peek. Soon enough  
it will be done!)

Refuel as necessary.  
(Branches of fallen maple  
atop split logs of oak  
send upward a heavenly smoke.)

When coals glow, flameless,  
Open reserve, and upon them  
pour ablution for  
the dying day.

Savor.

by Janice Byrne

## Finding a Friend

First we need a heart,  
a loving, kind heart.  
Next we need some trust,  
a non-betrayal trust.  
After that we need a mind,  
an extra-understanding mind.  
Add a dash of salt and pepper,  
along with many spices.  
Mix these until blended well.  
This concoction will become a friend  
to all she meets.  
Remember it's a friend you have,  
to love and care for.

by Shelly Muza

## How to Preserve Children

To preserve children take:  
1 large grassy field  
1/2 dozen children  
2 or 3 small dogs  
a pinch of brook  
some pebbles

Mix the children  
and dogs well together.  
Put them in a field,  
stirring constantly.  
Pour the brook  
over pebbles.  
Sprinkle the field with flowers.  
Spread over all a deep blue sky.  
Bake in the hot sun.  
When thoroughly browned,  
remove and set to cool  
in a bathtub!

Author Unknown

