



Moved by the spirit of Poem in Your Pocket day, Mayor Bloomberg began writing poems inspired by New York City. Here is a selection of the Mayor's original works.

2013 – “Artistic Freedom”

April is the cruelest month, I've heard a poet say
But not for me because there's Poem in Your Pocket Day
Each year, I get to publish my new verse – it's quite a perk
Too bad reporters always ask me to describe my work

Oh who knows?
Here goes...

My stuff's not like Dickinson – or Gertrude Stein
I'm not a new Longfellow, though he's just fine
I don't write like Whitman, I don't rhyme like Pope
I don't sound like Ezra Pound (or so I hope)

My work's not like Chaucer or Baldwin or Hughes
My poems aren't like Emerson's or Angelou's
I'm not Robert Frost – though we share a few traits
And I am not Keats (which does not rhyme with Yeats)

My style isn't Wordsworth – that's not what it is
Nor is it like Browning (Not Robert or Liz)
It's not Dr. Seuss. It's not Mother Goose.
I just can't describe it – I have no excuse

But hey!
That's okay....

I'm Bloomberg!
Not Ginsberg or Sandburg, you see
I shouldn't be T.S.
i can't be e.e.
I won't ever rhyme like Muhammad Ali

I'm me

In NYC

So I'm free
To be anything I want to be

And that is the note I'll end upon
New York New York!
Write on Write on!

2012 – “50.5 Million Can’t Be Wrong”

Hey there, fella! Lady, hey!
Didja hear? It’s “Poem in Your Pocket Day!”
Tenth anniversary – the bubbly’s flowing
People are cheering... yelling... Tebowing

Where best to celebrate this whole affair?
The Crossroads of the World – Times Square
Historic site of many a saga
And on New Year’s Eve... one Gaga

From across the globe, they visit here
50.5 million last year
Wanting to see all they’ve anticipated
Just follow directions – it’s not complicated

Bronx Zoo?	<i>(Take the 5 or the 2)</i>
Rockefeller Center?	<i>(Walk 6 blocks, then enter)</i>
Empire State?	<i>(Bus to Fifth, then go straight)</i>
Ferry to Staten?	<i>(At the tip of Manhattan)</i>
Unisphere in Queens?	<i>(Get there via several means)</i>
NY Aquarium?	<i>(Too far for kids to walk. Just carry ‘em)</i>
“Mamma Mia”?	<i>(Right behind you. See ya.)</i>

So on this big birthday of PIYP
Have a fantastic day in NYC
Take in the town – there is so much here to do!
(Just have a Poem in Your Pocket when you do)

Many New Yorkers celebrate
“Poem in Your Pocket Day”
But based on where you came from
It’s pronounced a different way

“*Un poema en tu bolsillo*”
That’s *en Español*
And then there’s “*Powèm nan pòch-ou*”
For those who speak Creole

Some people here enjoy
يوم قصيدة في جيبك
(I only know that ‘cause I am
A fluent Arabic speak-a)

放一首诗在你的口袋里

The Chinese say
주머니속에있는 시
Korean words, okay?

And nothing is more fun than
Стихи в Вашем кармане
Russians in New York
Think their rhymes are as good as Kanye

In sum, “Poem in your Pocket Day”
Could not be any greater
And everyone can love it
With or without Google Translator

"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That makes our City soar
It will take us to the future
As it's carried us before

Hope is the thing with feathers
That travels all our streets
It sings in every language
It sometimes even tweets

And though we may not see it
It perches everywhere
In new shops and small businesses
In every schoolroom chair

It could be our famous pigeon
Or fabled red-tailed hawk
Hope is the thing with feathers
That flies throughout New YAWK

"Volunteer!" says our latest plan

Here's how all New Yorkers can:

Read to kids

Mentor one

Help some seniors have some fun

Serve some soup

Or plant trees

Spend some time at food pantries

Coach a team

(Always nice)

Give some legal or tax advice

Learn to do CPR

Or...

Join the NYC Civic Corps

Help in any way, kind volunteers

You'll receive New Yorkers' cheers

But right now, to get the biggest thanks

Help the pitching on the Mets and Yanks

2008 – “Press Conference”

Pardon me, sir, I’ve a question or two ...

You.

Sir, you said poetry is a delight...

Right.

Reading it makes you smarter, more mature?

Sure.

But is it better for people not to read verse?

Worse.

Do you read sonnets? Limericks? Odes?

Loads.

All these short answers. Why?

I -

Follow-up! What do you in your free time?

Rhyme.

Could poems appeal to the Press?

Yes.

Reporters, editors... uh-huh...

Duh.

But can they help with traffic congestion?

Next question.