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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Rain Poetry Program Makes A Splash at Reading Public Library**

Reading, PA - Reading's young poets are turning rainy days into a colorful wonderland of written word at Reading Public Library.

Haiku poems written by young library patrons and local students will be displayed on the sidewalk around the Reading Public Library, and some of the poems will be invisible until they get wet!

The first Rain Poetry installation will be unveiled during a public celebration on Wednesday, July 16th from 3PM – 4:30PM at the Reading Public Library Main Branch, where young poets will reveal their poems with watering cans.

The second installation will be displayed at Reading Public Library Northeast Branch during a public celebration on Saturday, July 19th at 1PM. A third installation at Lauer's Park will be scheduled for Saturday, September 13th. All poems submitted to the Rain Poetry project will be published in a book that will be released in the fall.

Originally launched in Philadelphia in 2023 by PA Humanities, Rain Poetry encourages young people to explore and share their voices through the arts. The poems will be stenciled to the sidewalks using a special temporary spray that's invisible when dry but appears like magic when wet. Additional poems will be installed as decals and will be displayed for three months.

"This project is kind of magical," said Dawn Frisby Byers, Senior Director of Content and Engagement at PA Humanities, said. "Not only because the invisible poems appear seemingly out of nowhere when it rains, but also because they draw out previously invisible experiences and create moments of unexpected communication — between, a young person discovering the power of self-expression and the neighbor out for a walk who suddenly encounters their words."

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