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SPARK

The Beast with Ada Limón

Grades 7–12

Type

Poetry

This poetry prompt from Ada Limón invites students to consider a personal connection to an animal.

What You Will Do

Special guest author [Ada Limón](#) joins us for this Spark from [826NYC's quaranTEEN voices program](#). Ada Limón is the author of six books of poetry, including *The Carrying*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry. Limón is also the host of the critically-acclaimed poetry podcast, *The Slowdown*. Her new book of poetry, *The Hurting Kind*, is out now from Milkweed Editions. She is the 24th Poet Laureate of The United States.

From Ada:

So many of us are connected to certain animals. We see a bird everyday and think that we have a connection with that bird. Or a dog or a cat, or even something smaller like a bee or a mouse. Paying attention to animals that are around us or that we feel connected to even if we don't see them on a daily basis, is a good way to remember that we are animals too.

Write a poem about an animal that you feel connected to in some way or another. It doesn't have to be an animal you see everyday, maybe it's your favorite animal or the one you feel best represents you. Pay attention to the sounds of the language, describe how the animal moves, how the animal senses the world. How are you and that animal similar? Can you make a connection between the two of you. What do you want for the animal? Do you want the same for yourself? Let the poem lead you somewhere unexpected and surprising.