

Session 3: Growing Poem Gardens

“In Defense of Our Overgrown Garden” by Matthea Harvey. This poem can also be found at: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/51616/in-defense-of-our-overgrown-garden>.

Last night the apple trees shook and gave each lettuce a heart
Six hard red apples broke through the greenhouse glass and
Landed in the middle of those ever-so-slightly green leaves
That seem no mix of seeds and soil but of pastels and light and
Chalk x's mark our oaks that are supposed to be cut down
I've seen the neighbors frown when they look over the fence
And see our espalier pear trees bowing out of shape I did like that
They looked like candelabras against the wall but what's the sense
In swooning over pruning I said as much to Mrs. Jones and I swear
She threw her cane at me and walked off down the street without
It has always puzzled me that people coo over bonsai trees when
You can squint your eyes and shrink anything without much of
A struggle ensued with some starlings and the strawberry nets
So after untangling the two I took the nets off and watched birds
With red beaks fly by all morning at the window I reread your letter
About how the castles you flew over made crenellated shadows on
The water in the rainbarrel has overflowed and made a small swamp
I think the potatoes might turn out slightly damp don't worry
If there is no fog on the day you come home I will build a bonfire
So the smoke will make the cedars look the way you like them
To close I'm sorry there won't be any salad and I love you

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In Defense of Our Overgrown Garden

by Matthea Harvey

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Poem Propagation

Select 3-5 (or more!) words that stand out to you from the mentor text above, or choose 3-5 of your own words inspired by this text, and write them on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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My Poem Propagation

Remember that “propagate” means to make something new from something that already exists. Use the words you brainstormed on the planner to help you write a new, original poem.

How to Propagate a Plant with a Stem Cutting

