

# SILLY GOOSE WRITING CLUB

NEWSLETTER # 26

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Happy summer to my Gorgeous (silly) Geese,

This is Kaela, the new Creative Director of Thin Air Magazine. It's now June, meaning the weather is getting warmer, and my need to be outside is growing stronger. As a poet and painter, this translates to the need to create outside: in the sun and under the soft shade of trees, or in the bottoms of canyons, and the mouths of caves.

For today's newsletter, and in the spirit of summer, I have but one thing to suggest to you all: plein air. If you aren't familiar with the term, "plein air" is a French phrase meaning, "*in the open air*". It is used to reference the act of creating in the outdoors, often with an emphasis on light, color, and movement within the work. Plein air is most often heard in relation to painting, and was greatly popularized by the impressionists, who sought to capture the essence and dreamlike quality of things rather than hone in on the most minute of details. While plein air is most often associated with painting, it also has a history with writing, particularly in poetry.

When it's warm out, plein air is one of my favorite things to do. I'll pack a backpack with all the essentials: a notebook, pens, pencils, a set of watercolors, brushes, a beverage, and a snack. I'll either wander until I find somewhere that interests me, or I'll drive until I find something that feels right. In Flagstaff, I find that I don't need to drive very far to find somewhere beautiful, somewhere for me to hunker down with my backpack full of creative gear. On these days, I find myself glued to a spot for hours, painting or writing everything in front of me, everything that comes to me. There's something about plein air, about the act of creating outside, that invigorates me, and makes me happiest. I hope it brings joy and excitement to you as well.

Sincerely,  
Kaela



Writing Prompt:  
Go outside, find somewhere that brings you a sense of joy, serenity, awe, or even unease. If possible, I'd encourage you to find your way to somewhere beautiful, and somewhat private.

Bring something to write with (or paint/draw with), water, maybe a snack, and some sunscreen, just in case. Once you find your spot, get comfy! First, close your eyes. Take a deep breath, and take a moment to listen. What do you hear? While you listen, take note of the different smells. Is it floral? Musty? Swampy? Once you've gone through the listening, the smelling, and the feeling, open your eyes. Take in the details of what you see around you: the colors, the shapes, the light, the way things move, the way things reflect.  
Now, write.

Check Out!  
"THE FLARE"  
by  
Marie Anne  
Arreola