



Stay, Play, Learn

Arts and Science Adventures for Your Time at Home



A Poetry Prompt by Susan Campbell Bartoletti:

Hello, Readers & Writers,

Have you ever done something that you know you shouldn't have done? Have you ever apologized for something you did ... but didn't really mean it?

Take a moment to read this famous poem, "This Is Just to Say," by William Carlos Williams.

You can conduct an internet search to find the poem or use this link: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/56159/this-is-just-to-say>

Let's take a closer look at the poem. The first stanza tells us what Williams did – he ate the plums from the icebox. In the second stanza, Williams admits that he knows someone was saving the plums for breakfast. In the third stanza, he apologizes for eating them, and describes how delicious they were.

Do you think William Carlos Williams was truly sorry that he ate the plums?

I think not.

So let's talk about you. Again, have you ever done something that you know you shouldn't have done?

Or, have you ever apologized for something you did ... but didn't really mean it?

Step 1. 'Fess up. What did you do? Spill your guts. Give us the details. (You don't have to share the details, and please don't if they're embarrassing or hurtful to you or to someone else.)

Step 2. Write a real apology poem or a false apology poem. Your choice.

Step 3. Illustrate your poem.

You can read a whole book of false apology poems, written by Gail Carson Levine. Her books is called **Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It**.

Note: Susan Campbell Bartoletti was the featured author for this year's Readers Meeting Writers for Tunkhannock Area's 6th grade. This program was underwritten by M & T Bank

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