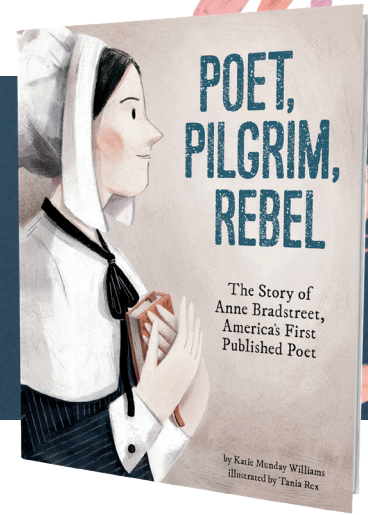


POET, PILGRIM, REBEL:

The Story of Anne Bradstreet, America's First Published Poet

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Dear Educators,

Though Anne Bradstreet is well known to many, her accomplishments are still widely unrecognized. The back matter in Poet, Pilgrim, Rebel includes not only an author's note expanding on her life and poetry, but a timeline of major events in her life. This timeline is designed to set the stage for the journey Anne embarked on while struggling to become a writer during a time of great personal upheaval. It is also intended to highlight the challenges she faced as a woman, and the wit she used to combat the sexism she experienced.

Anne was truly a rebel, a woman who dared to not only breach the boundaries imposed upon her by society, but to voice her opinions on worldly matters such as politics and the sciences. It is our job now to make her struggle worth it by sharing it with other children who dare to dream.

—Katie Munday Williams

ABOUT THE BOOK

In 1612, when Anne Dudley was born, women were not allowed to be writers. Anne's life was filled with duties that centered around the Puritan church, as well as her family. But Anne's father encouraged her love of poetry and Anne found that she could not let go of her desire to write. After traveling to America, Anne found respite from her difficult new life by writing her own poetry. She spent many years walking a fine line between duty and rebellion until her hard-earned efforts were rewarded with publication in 1650.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide offers activities and discussion points to help bring the book to life in the classroom. It's designed to not only help children visualize what life for Anne was like, but to engage them in a conversation on how women's rights have evolved over time. I fully believe that children are never too young to become feminists (or to enjoy good poetry!) and I hope this guide helps them do both.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Katie Munday Williams is an author and Public Health Nurse in Santa Cruz, CA where she lives with her husband and two young children. Poet, Pilgrim, Rebel is her first picture book and was inspired after her mother informed her that she was directly descended from Anne Bradstreet. Katie enjoys the outdoors and is unfortunate enough to have the lifelong affliction of loving horses. Learn more at katiemundaywilliams.com.

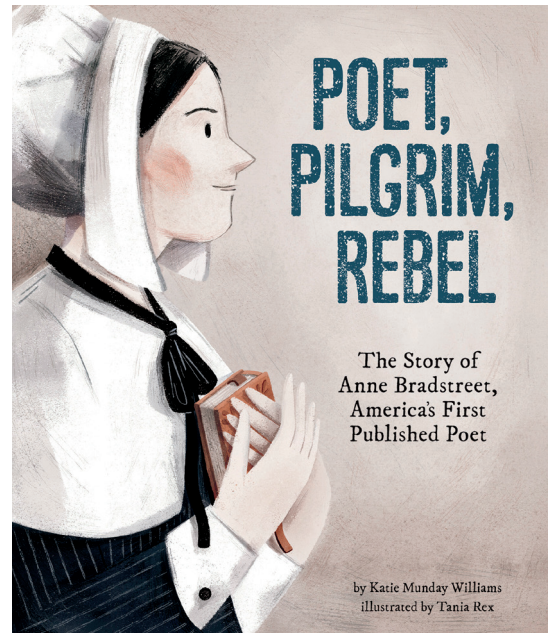
Tania Rex is a fine artist and children's book illustrator who has illustrated more than fifteen books for publishers around the world. She lives in Vilnius, Lithuania.

PRE-READING DISCUSSION

The Book Cover

Show students the cover and ask:

- What do you notice about Anne that is different from women today?
- Is the book set in the past or present? Explain
- Anne was married but doesn't wear a wedding ring. Discuss how traditions have developed and changed over the last 400 years
- What can you tell about Anne by looking at her face? Is she a dreamer, a thinker, any interests that are obvious?
- Who is the main character in the book? How can you tell?
- Who influenced Anne's writing the most? (Her father, husband, and children)
- Can you think of any other famous women writers?



Vocabulary to Understand While Reading the Book

Puritan—a member of a group of English Protestants of the late 16th and 17th centuries who sought religious freedom

Rebel—a person who resists authority, control, or convention

Pilgrim—a person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons

Arbella—The ship Anne and her family traveled on to reach North America

Feminism—the advocacy of women's rights on the basis of equality of the sexes

Equality—the state of being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities



CORN PUDDING

In the book, a reference is made to corn pudding (also sometimes called puddin' corn, hoppy glop, or spoonbread), a recipe that is thought to have originated with the Native American cooking technique of making corn pone. This was a favorite dish during the 1600's and one that Anne would have been familiar with. In the classroom, or at home, have the children make this recipe. Discuss other Native American contributions and how they shaped the settler's success.

Corn Pudding Recipe:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 package (8-1/2 ounces) cornbread/muffin mix
- 1/2 cup 2% milk
- 1 can (15-1/4 ounces) whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 can (14-3/4 ounces) cream-style corn

Directions

Preheat oven to 325°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in sour cream. Gradually add muffin mix alternately with milk. Fold in corn.

Pour into a greased 3-qt. baking dish or 13x9-in. baking pan. Bake, uncovered, until set and lightly browned, 45-50 minutes.

Nutrition Facts

3/4 cup: 435 calories, 22g fat (12g saturated fat), 112mg cholesterol, 700mg sodium, 52g carbohydrate (24g sugars, 2g fiber), 7g protein.



NATIVE AMERICANS

The success of the settlers was determined in large part by the help of the Native tribes already living in the area. Discuss the following points:

- Native American history is American history
- Native tribes have been here for over 15,000 years
- Native tribes still exist but have been overlooked and underrepresented for years. Discuss land reservations and ways that colonial settlers contributed to the breakdown of Native life

Check out the following resources on incorporating Native American History into your curriculum

- [Native360](#)—put together by the Smithsonian, this resource includes lesson plans, video interviews, interactive programs and more
- [Pulling Together: A Guide for Curriculum Developers](#)—a free, open-source curriculum guide adaptable for young children
- [Invasion of America](#)—a time-lapse map that allows viewers to explore the growth of the US in terms of the seizure of Native lands
- [When Rivers Were Trails](#)—a free downloadable game similar to Oregon Trail

**Resources provided by [edutopia](#).*





WORD SEARCH

R Z B E M J M A Q D Q G M V F
P E C K H V I P U R I T A N D
P S B P X D W F P E B R A Y G
L R A E M Q F W K P M C W A G
P F D E L A N R Z L A D Z C H
Q J E P N N P I S N O Q P G U
E A D Z N N A T G P U R O N C
N R V V R E A E S I R F M S A
N B E D W U T I N L G S A E V
A E Z T W W E K C G O P X I G
A L V R D O J U K R F O C D D
X L J E K N I E N I R E W B B
D A Q K P H F A T M A T D A E
Y B E W C E J R N I D D J S U
I Y Q G C A W A A N E Q W D V

Puritan
Write

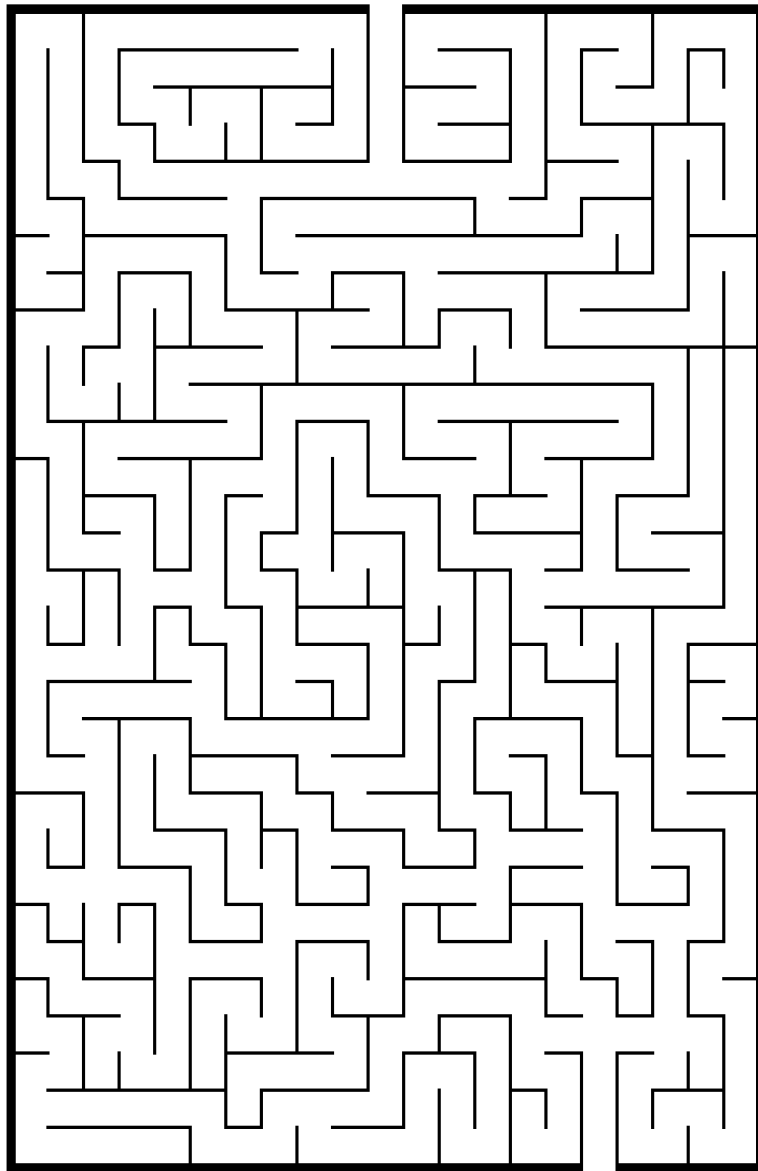
Pilgrim
Poet

Rebel
Anne

Arbella

MAZE

Help the Arbella find her way to “The New World”



WRITE A POEM

Discuss common poetic structures and have the children write their own. Reads books that exemplify each style and try to have the children guess which style it is. Examples include:

- **Blank verse**—doesn't rhyme, often done in iambic pentameter; Example: *The Night Horse* by April Wayland.
- **Rhymed poetry**—Example: *Little Red Rhyming Hood* by Sue Fliess
- **Free verse**—lacks consistent rhyme scheme, meter, or musical form; Examples: *Giant Squid* and *Honeybee* by Candace Fleming
- **Haiku**—3 line poem originating in Japan. The first line has 5 syllables, the 2nd has 7, and the 3rd has 5 again. Examples: *Dogku* by Andrew Clements; *Whoo-Ku Haiku: A Great Horned Owl Story* by Maria Gianferrari



POST-READING DISCUSSION:

- Look at the cover again—now what do you think Anne is thinking about? What else does the cover tell you?
- After reading the story, identify some obstacles Anne faced in following her dream of being a writer
- Who supported Anne's writing and how might that have made a difference to her success?
- Why was it so important for Anne to make fun of her own writing?
- How would being famous be different 400 years ago?