

The best poem *ever*

by [Brian Doyle](#) in the [November 22, 2016](#) issue

What if, says a small child to me this afternoon,
We made a poem without using any words at all?
Wouldn't that be cool? You could use long twigs,
And feathers, or spider strands, and arrange them
So that people *imagine* what words could be there.
Wouldn't that be cool? So there's a different poem
For each reader. That would be the best poem *ever*.
The poem wouldn't be on the page, right? It would
Be in the air, sort of. It would be between the twigs
And the person's eyes, or *behind* the person's eyes,
After the person saw whatever poem he or she saw.
Maybe there are a *lot* of poems that you can't write
Down. Couldn't that be? But they're still there even
If no one can write them down, right? Poems in
Books are only a little bit of all the poems there are.
Those are only the poems someone found words for.