

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.