

I look forward to an America
which will reward achievement
in the arts
as we reward achievement
in business or statecraft.

I look forward to an America
which will steadily raise
the standards of artistic accomplishment
and which will steadily enlarge cultural op-
portunities
for all of our citizens.

And I look forward to an America
which commands respect
throughout the world
not only for its strength
but for its civilization as well.

I look forward to an America which will not be
afraid of grace and beauty.

*John F. Kennedy
Remarks at Amherst College
October 26, 1963*

Write your new poem here

1

To create a pennant inspired by your
poem, answer the questions on the back.

What image do you see when you read your poem? Draw it here.

Can you distill your poem down to 1-2 key word(s)? **or** Can you create a short title for your poem?

Amongst your answers, select the image and/or word(s) that you want to showcase on your pennant.

There is a connection,
hard to explain logically
but easy to feel,
between achievement in public life
and progress in the arts.

The age of Pericles
was also the age of Phidias.
The age of Lorenzo de Medici
was also the age of Leonardo da Vinci,
the age of Elizabeth
also the age of Shakespeare,
and the new frontier
for which I campaign in public life,
can also be a new frontier
for American art.

*John F. Kennedy
Letter to Miss Theodate Johnson
September 13, 1960*

Write your new poem here

2

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To further the appreciation of culture
among all the people.
To increase respect
for the creative individual,
to widen participation
by all the processes and fulfillments of
art — this is one
of the fascinating challenges
of these days.

John F. Kennedy
“The Arts in America”
December 18, 1962

This country cannot afford
to be materially rich
and spiritually poor.

John F. Kennedy
State of the Union Message
January 14, 1963

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3

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I am certain that
after the dust of centuries
has passed over our cities,
we, too, will be remembered
not for victories or defeats
in battle or in politics,
but for our contribution
to the human spirit.

*John F. Kennedy
Remarks on a Closed-circuit Television Broadcast
on Behalf of the National Cultural Center
that would bear his name
November 29, 1962*

Write your new poem here

4

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As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget
that the highest form of
appreciation
is not to utter words,
but to live by them.

A nation reveals itself
not only by the men
it produces
but also by the men
it honours,
the men it remembers.

*John F. Kennedy
Proclamation 3560
November 4, 1963*

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5

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The courage of life
is often a less dramatic spectacle
than the courage of a final moment;
but it is no less a magnificent mixture
of triumph and tragedy.

In whatever arena of life
one may meet the challenge of
courage...
each man must decide for himself
the course he will follow.

The stories of past courage can define
that ingredient —
they can teach,
they can offer hope,
they can provide inspiration.

But they cannot supply courage itself.
For this each man must look
into his own soul.

John F. Kennedy
Profiles in Courage, 1955

Write your new poem here

6

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We choose to go to the moon.
We choose to go to the moon in this
decade
and do the other things,
not because they are easy,
but because they are hard,
because that goal will serve
to organize and measure
the best of our energies and skills,
because that challenge
is one that we are willing to accept,
one we are unwilling to postpone,
and one which we intend to win,
and the others, too.

*John F. Kennedy
Rice Stadium Moon Speech
September 12, 1962*

Write your new poem here

7

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When power leads men towards
arrogance,
poetry reminds him of his limitations.
When power narrows
the areas of man's concern,
poetry reminds him of
the richness and diversity of his
existence.
When power corrupts,
poetry cleanses.

For art establishes
the basic human truth
which must serve as the touchstone
of our judgment.

*John F. Kennedy
Remarks at Amherst College
October 26, 1963*

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8

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If art is to nourish the roots
of our culture,
society must
set the artist free
to follow his vision
wherever it takes him.

The men who create power
make an indispensable contribution
to the Nation's greatness,
but the men who question power
make a contribution
just as indispensable,
especially when that questioning is
disinterested,
for they determine
whether we use power
or power uses us.

John F. Kennedy
Remarks at Amherst College
October 26, 1963

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