

Hailey Leithauser



Hailey Leithauser originally took poetry workshops as an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, but stopped writing for almost 20 years while she pursued a career as a librarian. Standing in front of a van Gogh painting during a visit to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., she was inspired to return to writing, and eventually developed her own form, the small sonnet. Writing dense, compact poems packed with slant and full rhymes has taught Leithauser "to really exploit what you can do in a poem that is only 70 syllables long and that relies on rhyme to really carry it through," she told the *Takoma Voice* in an interview. Born in Florida, Leithauser lives in Takoma Park, Maryland.