

On Turning 20 in Horse Years

Lin Sutherland
Onion Creek Ranch

If I were a Palomino, born in the year of our Lord,
I would be in my prime—as I am.
Happy to trot with a good herd,
Able to know mud from sand,
Willing to sprint up the long hill,
Cross the rough rocks of the hill country,
and know when I've had my fill.

I might be a good seasoned mare,
Safe around kids and beginners
but still wild when the moon is bare—
likely to run and kick up my heels
and show off my breeding with flare.
I'd be able to sense the good trail from bad,
Able to lead myself and a friend
away from the craters and snakes,
Able to see the sun at the end
of the canyons and valleys and lakes.

If I were a Palomino, turning 20 with a little bow,
I couldn't be happier,
I couldn't be stronger,
I'd be just what I was—
like a horse, in love with the now.

About the Author

Lin Sutherland teaches horsemanship and riding at Onion Creek Ranch in Austin, Texas. She rides and writes where the west wind takes her.