Bringing Poetry to the World

... A Wealth of Poetry Reading and Writing Activities

Siri Scott, 4th grade teacher
Heather Labenstine, library teacher
Reading poetry

Connect with poems: Finding signature poems

Talk about poetry: Guiding questions and The Great Frog Race

Play with the sounds of poetry: Choral reading

Get to know the genre of poetry: Making “Qualities of Poetry” booklets

Focus on poetic language: Poetic language scavenger hunt

Poetry project: Putting poetry out into the world

Other: The Friday Poetry Anthology, Novels in Verse book talk
Signature Poems

The biggest
Surprise
On the library shelf
Is when you suddenly
Find yourself
Inside a book--
(\textit{The hidden you})

You wonder how
The author knew.

--Beverly McLoughland
Poem Questions

1. What is the subject of the poem?
2. What images stand out?
3. What feelings or mood does the poem give you?
4. What words or lines do you like the sound of?

Polliwogs
Come see
What I found!
Chubby commas,
Mouths round,
Plump babies,
Stubby as toes.
Polliwogs!
Tadpoles!

Come see
What I found!
Frogs-in-waiting—
Huddled in puddles,
Snuggled in mud.

The Great Frog Race and Other Poems
by Kristine O’Connell George
Illustrated by Kate Kiesler
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Poems come alive when read aloud.

They may wait quietly on the page, dressed neatly in rhymes and stanzas, sheltered beneath clever titles.

But when read aloud they explode with LIFE, COLOR, and ENERGY!

(Adapted from *Poetry Aloud*, by Robert Rubin)
We Could Be Friends

MYRA COHN LIVINGSTON

We could be friends
Like friends are supposed to be.
You, picking up the telephone
Calling me

to come over and play
or take a walk,
finding a place
to sit and talk,

Or just goof around
Like friends do,
Me, picking up the telephone
Calling you.

FOG

The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.
— Carl Sandburg

Lemon Tree

If you climb a lemon tree
feel the bark
under your knees and feet.
Smell the white flowers,
Rub the leaves
In your hands.
Remember,
the tree is older than you are
and you might find stories
in its branches.

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Qualities of Poetry booklets
Poetic Language Scavenger Hunt

Hunt for poetic words, phrases, and sentences in unexpected places. These should make a vivid picture in your mind, say something in a surprising way, or give you a strong feeling.

You try it!

http://www.theimaginativeconservative.org/
Putting Poetry Out Into the World

Brainstormed--and realized.

Prompts us to read with specific sites or audiences in mind.

Enables us to see poems as gifts.

Connects us in surprising ways to our communities.
Other ways to spark the reading of poetry
Writing Poetry

“Where does poetry hide?” Doors of Poetry prompts

Making a poetry anthology and hosting a poetry tea

Other:

- Book spine poetry
- Blackout poetry
- Digital magnetic poetry
Where does poetry hide?

...poems hide. In the bottoms of our shoes, they are sleeping. They are the shadows drifting across our ceilings the moment before we wake up. What we have to do is live in a way the lets us find them.

--Naomi Shihab Nye
The Doors of Poetry

Heart Door: opening to the inner life and feelings

Observation Door: observing and celebrating the world

Memory Door: mining the past for inspiration

Wonder Door: being curious and questioning the world

Concerns About the World Door: sharing what troubles us about the world

Imagination Door: Before I was born...

http://leckie.queenanneelementary.com/
Making a Poetry Anthology and Hosting a Poetry Tea

Reason to select, revise, and edit our best work

Practice

Anthologies ready for audience

Title

What to Do IN A STORM

listen to Ares' three headed dog howling, growlings snapping at your window.

then fall asleep and dream and dream and dream.

look out your window see all of the gods bronze colored swords stabbing through the heart of the sky.

listen to the battle cries of the thunder.

find the titans puffy hats in the clouds.

put your ears to the window listen to the hellhounds stomp.

By: Josiah Daniel Gerber-Dolan
Poetic License
This certifies that

has the power to write her way into the hearts of the universe. She is free to let her imagination run wild and to boldly write poetry as often as she wants.

Date:

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Date:
Book Spine Poetry

100 Scope Notes

AAAAT WHAT DO YOU SEE?
THE SHADOW ON THE STAIRS
Bedtime Is Canceled
Blackout Poetry In Action
Blackout Poetry

Heart

Is your a universe or a neighborhood or a building or is it furniture?

fotografiidincuvinte.wordpress.com
Play with the FirstWords Magnetic Poetry Kit

live  music
my  song  is
a  small  sun
a  blue  home
some  good  book s

read write think

acrostic poems
GOATS
by: HL

oats in our yard
verly curious, they nibble
everything
ey climb on everything, then
leep curled up close in their shed
Thank you!

Reading poetry echoes so much of what we’ve heard here this weekend:

Poetry provides windows and mirrors, and can help us acknowledge the troubles we face (nod to Mitali Perkins)

Poetry is often dismissed by readers of all ages--but we can help our students find the poems they’ll read more than once (nod to Pernille Ripp)

Poetry can help us see and understand the animals, habitats, interconnectedness, and stuff of our real, physical world--like the best of nonfiction (nod to our authors)

Poetry can inspire our students to explore and change their world (nod to our authors)