

POETRY STUDY

(GR 5): Write a series of poems (unless it's a story) on one theme

- Day 1: IMMERSION/COLLECTING
 READ POWERFUL POEM (**Choose Touchstone Text(s) for teaching**)
 ML: Getting some ideas about poetry
 Ralph Fletcher: Emotion, Image, Music
WNB: Do thinking about what these words mean
WNB (COLLECTING): Find in your NB a word/sentence around which you feel, hear, and/or see something
- Day 2: IMMERSION AND SORTING/COLLECTING
 ML: READ more poetry to demonstrate that poems come from something you feel deeply
 BEGIN Working Definition (Noticing what seems to be essential about this genre)
 Make poetry stacks that are comparable for each group. They will work with this same stack for several days.
 At the end of first day, have students record the books in their own stack so they can get them back again.
 Be sure they have at least one book that tells a story that is NOT poetry
 SORT Ask students to sort books into three stacks (into categories of their own choice).
 REPEAT with three different categories. If they do not come up with this category, add...
 Hold/find a book with single author/single poem
 Hold/find book with single author/single theme
WNB (COLLECTING): Begin to make or find entries about things you feel deeply about
- Day 3: SIFTING/COLLECTING
 ML: READ more poetry that highlights features of Fletcher 'expert definition' – emotion, image, music.
 Students SIFT OUT books that do NOT fit this definition. Take out books that are not poems. Take out Silverstein, Prelutsky, Suess, and other poems controlled by form (Haiku, Cinquain, etc.)
WNB (COLLECTING): Continue to make or find entries about things you feel deeply about
- Day 4: SECOND IMMERSION/CHOOSING A SEED
 ML: Poets take a seed idea and live with it across lots of poems. READ a series of poems that does this.
 Hold/find poetry book that tells a story
 Hold/find poetry books with themes organized:
 Around a single word
 By senses
 Feelings
 Randomly (around a theme idea)
 Around an event
 Chronologically
 Separated into categories
 SIFT OUT all books but those by single author/single poem or single author/single theme (this will be like what you want them to do)
WNB: Choosing seed
- Day 5: NURTURING
 ML: Poets love reading poetry. Read some of your favorites and tell students why.
 Look through poetry books and find five poems you like a lot. Discuss with your group why you chose them.
WNB: think more in writing about your discussion and what you want to remember about your favorite poems

- Day 6: NURTURING
ML: Poets collect poems by their favorite poets
WNB: Look through poems again. Select five, copy (on copy machine or by hand if not too long) and put into notebook. Leave space for pictures, draw them.
- Day 7: DRAFTING
ML: Poets look at the world in special ways. Read: Byrd Baylor's The Other Way to Listen.
WNB: Drafting some poems
- Day 8: DRAFTING
ML: Poets can use their own prose writing to craft poetry. Demo with own writing on overhead or chart paper.
WNB: Continue to draft poems
- Day 9-16 REVISION TRY-ITS (Refer to Georgia Heard's book for specific ML suggestions). Use touchstone sheet for this teaching. Always suggest Try-its in notebooks during writing time.

Repetition (line, or word, or idea, or sound)
WNB: Try-its
- Day 10 REVISION TRY-ITS
WNB: Try-its Repetition again (alliteration)
- Day 11 REVISION TRY-ITS
WNB: Try-its Language: Poets say things in unusual ways (metaphor, simile)
- Day 12 REVISION TRY-ITS Rhythm: Clap out rhythm and notice when we stop & keep going
Group students to perform poetry rhythms together.
- Day 13 REVISION TRY-ITS Poets use line breaks and white space to slow poems down, to encourage reader to stop and reflect, to set off poem's final line, to single out a line to surround it by silence, to make a break in information.
WNB: Try-its
- Day 14 REVISION TRY-ITS Line breaks and white space try-it (Valerie Worth lesson)
WNB: Try-its
- Day 15 REVISION TRY-ITS Make the ordinary—EXTRAORDINARY! Poets paint pictures with words. They find surprising ways ways.
WNB: Try-its Ordinary/Extraordinary T-chart for words from own poems
- Day 16 REVISION TRY-ITS Poets craft punctuation to create rhythm.
WNB: Try-its Playing w/ punctuation to create rhythm
- Day 17 REVISION TRY-ITS Poets say things in unusual ways: finding just the right words
WNB: Try-its Word choice. Finding exactly the right word (or making up words that fit meaning)
- Day 18-21 All about writing. RE-ENVISIONING POEMS series of poems.
- Day 22 Editing
Day 23 Publishing
Day 24 Celebration: Memorize one or two poems and recite to class.