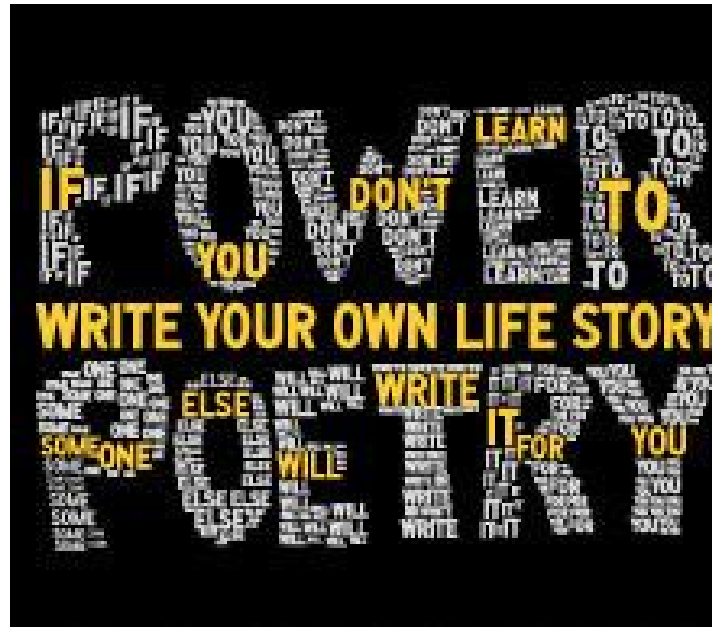


THAT POETRY JOURNAL OF POEMS AND STUFF



#HYPERDOC

READING

AND WRITING

POETRY

PART 1: READING POETRY

LEARNING TARGET 1: I CAN READ AND UNDERSTAND A POEM.

A ROSE THAT GREW FROM CONCRETE - TUPAC

Watch: [Powerade Commercial](#)
Where do we experience poetry?

Why Does Poetry Matter?

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY - BILLY COLLINS

Read the following poem.

I ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem's room
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to water-ski
across the surface of a poem
waving at the author's name on the shore.

But all they want to do
is tie the poem to a chair with rope
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose
to find out what it really means.

Now, read the poem again. This time, look for the author's advice to you when you read poetry. In your own words, what do you think he wants his reader to do?

READ-WONDER-THINK

Sometimes it feels like poetry is written in code or maybe a foreign language. Although it can be challenging to understand at times, this is what makes poetry interesting, unique, silly, or beautiful.

To really understand poetry, we need to slow down and look at it more closely. Try using these three steps to understand what the author is saying:

1. **Read:** read every word slowly. Read the poem multiple times. Look at what is right there, don't try too hard to read into the meaning yet. Ask yourself:

What did you notice?
What words stuck out to you?

"Take a poem and hold it up to the light"

2. **Wonder:** ask questions about what you noticed.

Do you wonder what a specific word means?

Or maybe why they chose that word?

Does anything seem strange?

Do you wonder why the author chose to compare two things?

Do you wonder what an author is describing?

“Drop a mouse in and watch him probe his way out”

3. **Think:** now try to answer your questions. Use what you noticed and other evidence from the poem.

Did the poem make you feel a certain way?

What do you think the author’s message was?

“ Water-ski across the surface... waving at the author”

PRACTICE: UPSIDE DOWN

Try using the read-wonder-think strategy for understanding poetry below.



Upside-down trees swingin’ free,
Busses float and buildings dangle:
Now and then it’s nice to see
The world--from a different angle



1. Read:
2. Wonder:
3. Think:

UNDERSTANDING: STILL I RISE - MAYA ANGELOU

Read the poem as a whole class.
Re-read and/or listen to the poem multiple times.

[Still I Rise text](#)
[Nicki Minaj Reading Still I Rise](#)
[Maya Angelou reading Still I Rise with introduction](#)

Discuss this with a partner. Fill in your ideas here. Make sure to spend at least 3 minutes on each of the steps.

1. Read:
2. Wonder:
3. Think:

★ ★ Bonus tech tip: Download “Tab Scissors” & “Tab Glue” ★ ★

These will help if you want to view two tabs at the same time. For example, you may want to be able to read a poem and have this hyperdoc viewable at the same time.

1. Click the three vertical dots button on the Google Chrome toolbar
2. Go to More Tools -> Click Extensions
3. At the bottom of the page click Get More Extensions
4. In the Chrome Web Store, search for Tab Scissors
5. Click the blue +Add to Chrome button
6. Follow the same directions for Tab Glue



A NOTE ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

[Figurative Language Video](#)

After watching the video, complete the following:

1. What is figurative language?
2. Give an example of figurative language from 1 of the 3 poems we have already read together.
3. **What** is being described in this example?
4. **How** is this thing being described in this example?

APPLY: UNDERSTANDING ADDITIONAL POEMS

Choose one of the following poems. Click the link to read it. Then fill out the Read-Wonder-Think below.

["59" - Harry Baker text & Video of Harry Baker reading](#)

A compilation of three short poems [13-14-15](#)

[On Turning Ten - Billy Collins](#)

[The Road Not Taken - Robert Frost](#)

[Hope is the Thing With Feathers - Emily Dickinson](#)

[Mother to Son by Langston Hughes](#)

[Pass On - Michael Lee text & Video of Michael Lee reading](#)

[Moon Over - Brad Litehauser](#)

Discuss this with a partner. Fill in your ideas here. Make sure to spend at least 3 minutes on each of the steps.

Poem Title:

1. Read:
2. Wonder:
3. Think:

EXTENSION: Finished one? Choose another one to do with a different partner here. This is not required, but could be completed to go for a four.

Poem Title:

1. Read:
2. Wonder:
3. Think:

MORE EXTENSION: Finished two? Choose another one to do with yet another partner here. This is not required, but could be completed to go for a four.

Poem Title:

1. Read:
2. Wonder:
3. Think:

SHARE

Find a partner who went through the same poem as you. Share with each other what you think the poem is about and other thoughts about this poem.

LEARNING TARGET 2: I CAN IDENTIFY THE TOOLS AN AUTHOR USED IN CRAFTING A POEM.

EXPLORING: NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY - ROBERT FROST

Read the poem as a whole class. Follow along with the text below.

Re-read the poem multiple times.

[Nothing Gold Can Stay- Robert Frost](#)

What did you like about this poem?

Did you notice any techniques this poet used? Look back at the text. Try to describe some of the creative techniques he used here.

POETRY TECHNIQUES TOOLBOX

Go to Google Classroom and access your [Poetry Techniques Toolbox](#). We will take notes on the techniques used in this poem and others. You don't always need to start with the name of a technique. If you notice a poet doing something you like, put it down in the example box. Then try to describe it. If you don't know what this technique is called, ask for help.

Copy and paste the link to your personal Poetry Techniques Toolbox here:

IDENTIFYING MORE TOOLS: SUNSHINE KID - HARRY BAKER

[Sunshine Kid Text](#) & [Sunshine Kid Read by Harry Baker](#)

Read through the poem aloud with a partner. Listen again if you would like. Then work together to complete the steps below.

What did you like about this poem?

Did you notice any techniques this poet used? Look back at the text. Work together to add techniques from this poem to your Poetry Techniques Toolbox.

IDENTIFYING MORE TOOLS: YOUR CHOICE

Choose ANY of the poems we have already read to re-read. Or use a new poem below. Try this first one for a challenge (and TONS of great techniques)!!!

It's technically "The best poem in the world."

[Paper People - Harry Baker text](#) & [Video](#) (scroll back to 4:15 to hear intro)

[How Happy is the Little Stone - Emily Dickinson](#)

[A Dream Within a Dream - Edgar Allen Poe](#)

[Ode To a Tuna in the Market - Pablo Neruda](#)

[Deer Hit - Jon Loomis](#)

[That Sure is My Little Dog - Eleanor Lerman](#)

[I Died For Beauty - Emily Dickinson](#)

1. Look for new techniques to add to your list. Add these to your

Poetry Techniques Toolbox.

2. Look for examples of techniques that we have already added to your toolbox. Add these additional examples.

ASSESSMENT: UNDERSTANDING YOUR MUSIC

This is an assessment to measure your ability to use the Read-Wonder-Think method to understand what a poem is saying and your ability to identify techniques used by poets. Go to Google Classroom to access the [Google Doc](#) with your name on it.

Also, please **SHARE** the song you chose and a link to lyrics on this [padlet](#).

PART 2: WRITING POETRY

DEAD POET'S SOCIETY VIDEO CLIP

LEARNING TARGET 1: I CAN GENERATE IDEAS FOR WRITING POETRY.

EXPLORE: TOPICS

A professional poet gives advice on writing poetry: [Simon Armitage](#)

At 3:40 he says that "inspiration is really excitement."

We have read a variety of poems and lyrics that are about many different topics.

What are some of the topics that poets have written about?

What are some topics that you would be excited to write poetry about?

ADVICE TO WRITERS - BILLY COLLINS

Even if it keeps you up all night,
wash down the walls and scrub the floor
of your study before composing a syllable.

Clean the place as if the Pope were on his way.
Spotlessness is the niece of inspiration.

The more you clean, the more brilliant
your writing will be, so do not hesitate to take
to the open fields to scour the undersides
of rocks or swab in the dark forest
upper branches, nests full of eggs.

When you find your way back home
and stow the sponges and brushes under the sink,
you will behold in the light of dawn
the immaculate altar of your desk,
a clean surface in the middle of a clean world.

From a small vase, sparkling blue, lift
a yellow pencil, the sharpest of the bouquet,
and cover pages with tiny sentences
like long rows of devoted ants
that followed you in from the woods.

What advice is Billy Collins giving to you as a writer?

HOW TO WRITE POETRY: IDEAS-ORGANIZE-WRITE

Like all writing, poetry can be very difficult. Often, the biggest challenge is “Where do I start?!?”

As writers, we know that we should NOT just start by writing. It is best to have a plan first. So, we will continue to use our three steps in writing. Here is how that can work for poetry:

1. **Ideas:** come up with a topic. Also, plan ahead on how you will best communicate ideas about your topic to your reader. Ask yourself the following:

What topic do I want to write about?

What is the message I want my audience to get about this topic?

What keywords could I use in my poem?

What techniques could I use to communicate my ideas?

*“wash down the walls and scrub the floor
of your study before composing a syllable”*

2. **Organize:** pull together all of your ideas to fit together. Select which of your ideas you will actually use and which should be saved for another time. Ask yourself the following:

Which keywords do I need to include?

How will these help my audience understand my topic/message?

Which techniques will I use? How will I use it?

Which style of writing will I use?

What order will include all of the parts to this poem?

“a clean surface in the middle of a clean world”

3. **Write:** try writing out your poem. Pay close attention to each word you are using. Try to follow a style and create a rhythm as you write. More than ever, it is important to go slow to pay close attention to your writing. Ask yourself the following as you write:

How will words and lines go together?

Am I including all of the words I planned to use?

Do I need to get rid of extra filler words?

Is there a flow or rhythm to what I am writing?

“lift a yellow pencil, the sharpest of the bouquet, and cover pages with tiny sentences”

WRITE A POEM: SLEEP

Below we will write a poem together. Let's practice using the three step process to write a poem about sleep.

1. Ideas:

2. Organize:

3. Write:

WRITE A POEM: SNOW

Try using the three step process to write a poem about snow. Try using **IMAGERY** as a technique.

You should have a finished draft complete in the “write” section below.

1. Ideas:

2. Organize:

3. Write:

LEARNING TARGET 3: I CAN USE A VARIETY OF STYLES TO
WRITE POETRY.

STYLES OF POETRY

There are many different formal styles to write poetry. These give some structure that help create good rhyming patterns and rhythm to the writing.

Limerick:

Riddle:

Ballad:

Diamante:

Terza Rima:

Haiku:

Cinquain:

Sonnet:

Free Verse:

Need help counting syllables? Try this [syllable counter](#)!

Below, write a poem with your group about PIZZA. Use the style you were assigned to write the poem.

1. Ideas:

2. Organize:

3. Write:

LEARNING TARGET 4: I CAN USE EFFECTIVE POETRY TECHNIQUES TO WRITE ORIGINAL POEMS.

WRITE A POEM: USING A METAPHOR

Below we will write a poem that uses a metaphor. You can choose any topic. Consider using one from your list above. You can also use a variety of other techniques and your choice of style.

Mentally use the Ideas - Organize - Write Process in the space below to craft your original poem.

WRITE A POEM: USING JUXTAPOSITION

Not sure what juxtaposition is? Then let's add it to your Poetry Techniques Toolbox.

A former student once told me that a great way to be inspired when writing poetry is to look at art. Use the [juxtaposition in this slide](#) as inspiration for a poem. Write the poem in the space below.

WRITE A HERO HAIKU

[Haiku](#) is a special style of poetry. Use this style to write a poem about a hero. It could be a hero from our hero unit, your everyday hero, or any other hero.

Share your poem on this [padlet](#) for others to see.

YOUR CHOICE

Write a poem that has a topic of your choice, in a style of your choice, and uses two or more techniques of your choice.

YOUR FINAL POEM

You should have several draft poems written above. Pick one to re-write, finalize, and turn in for a grade. You will also read this poem at our poetry slam.

Here is the [rubric](#).

You should have one or more peers give you feedback. Read your poem aloud to them. Then, use [this document](#) to ask specific questions to your peers. Feel free to “make a copy” so that you can type responses if you

would like.

Paste a link to the document with your final poem here: