

FOR THE CLASSROOM

The Power of Poetry in the Classroom

Why teach poetry in the classroom? The answer is simple. Research shows that reading poetry improves student performance on tests. "Poetry helps students do well on high stakes tests because it gives their minds an exhilarating workout. Poetry inspires students to read more, imagine more, think more, discuss more, and write more," Nile Stanley, *Creating Readers With Poetry*.

Below are some quick ideas to help your students harness the power of poetry so they can ride off into the sunset of academic success.

News alert! Poetry jumps across the curriculum divide!

Set your internet browser for www.poetryfoundation.org and use their interactive "poetry tool" to explore thousands of poems that have been organized into categories. Teach science? Explore the page titled, "Ten Poems To Get You Through Science Class" where you will find poems like Alan Shapiro's poem "Science Astronomy Lesson" that uses scientific metaphors such as light-years, solar winds, black holes, and the cooling sun. Teach math? Share Phil Bolsta's poem "Freddie" with your students and laugh with them as the poet describes how he has his dog do his math homework.



home. Some good places to look for faces include: electric sockets, drink machine coin slots, backs of a desk chairs, and handbags. Tell students to take a picture or sketch the face. Next, students use their found face to write a poem describing the who, what, when, where, and why of their character. Start your face finding foray online by perusing the a collection of pictures of inanimate objects with faces by visiting: <http://inanimatefaces.com/>

Once you start seeing faces, you will see them everywhere!

Famous Figure Help Wanted Ad

Students pretend they are a famous scientist, mathematician, historical figure, or writer who is writing a help wanted ad requesting an assistant to help them with their next great discovery or project. The ad should begin with a title that announces the position in a way that will grab the reader's attention. Have them complete the ad with poetic descriptions of the tasks, responsibilities, qualifications, and experience needed to be their assistant.

Rhyme outside the Box

Below are some fun and interesting ways to bring creativity to prose.

Found Faces

Ever seen a face in a cloud, on a building or on a home appliance? If so you experienced what scientists refer to as Pareidolia, the psychological phenomenon that causes humans to perceive a face in random stimulus. Use this phenomenon to help your students write a "found faces" poem. First ask them to find a face around the school or at

Newspaper Blackout Poem

All you need for this activity are some markers, old newspapers and curious students. Bring in a stack of old newspapers and some black ball pens, and ask your students to create a "Blackout Poem" using the words in a news article. The process is simple: Students use their pens to black out the words they don't want to use leaving the unmarked words behind to form their poem. Helpful tip: The poems will flow more smoothly if students first use a pencil to circle all of the words for their poem before blacking out the rest of the words in the article.

PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

BIC® Mechanical Pencils – Spend time Sharpening Knowledge Not Pencils!

In 2002, the No Child Left Behind Act was mandated by congress calling attention to high-stakes testing and benchmark testing. Since this time, teachers and school districts have become more accountable for student performance combined with a need to more accurately assess student aptitude in a practical way.

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BIC® Pencil is the only Mechanical Pencil certified* by Scantron®

Historically, mechanical pencils were not allowed for use on standardized test forms. However, BIC® has collaborated with Scantron® to certify certain BIC Mechanical Pencils on Scantron Genuine Forms. Certain BIC Mechanical Pencils are now certified* for use on Scantron test forms.

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