

# Playing With Poetry

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LEARN Web Event

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# First Memories

## Now We are Six

When I was one I had just begun  
When I was two I was nearly new  
When I was three I was hardly me  
When I was four I was not much more  
When I was five I was just alive  
But now I am six, I'm as clever as clever;  
So I think I'll be six now for ever and ever.

~A. A. Milne

©A.A. Milne, reprinted from *Now We Are Six* published by Dell Pub Co



Flickr image by poetas

## Tiddely Pom

The more it snows (Tiddely pom),  
The more it goes (Tiddely pom),  
The more it goes (Tiddely pom)  
On snowing.

And nobody knows (Tiddely pom),  
How cold my toes (Tiddely pom),  
How cold my toes (Tiddely pom),  
Are growing.

~A. A. Milne

©A.A. Milne, reprinted from *The House on Pooh Corner* published by Puffin



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- The King's Breakfast by A.A. Milne
- Bed in Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Swing by Robert Louis Stevenson
- The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear
- The Cremation of Sam McGee by Robert W. Service
- Alligator Pie by Dennis Lee



Flickr image by Enokson

# Five Reasons Why Poetry is Important

- Good poetry always makes you FEEL something
- Poetry has power
- Poetry is intimate
- Poetry is something you can share
- Poetry will get your kids reading and maybe even writing



Flickr image by Enokson

# Simple ways to engage

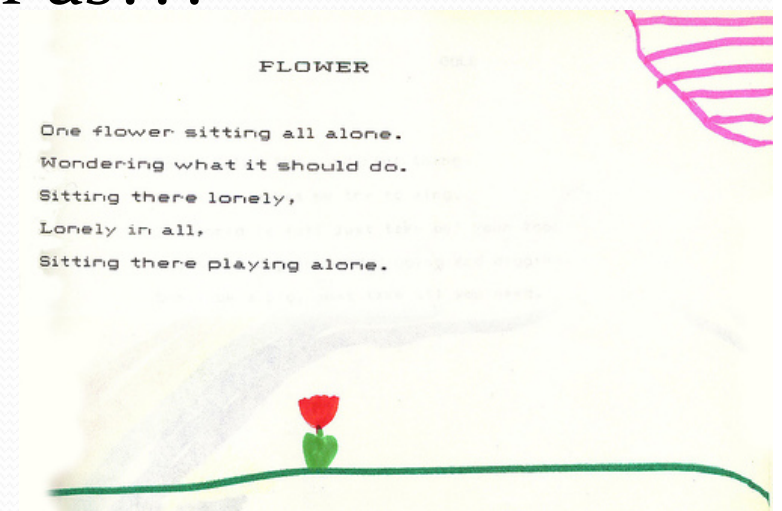
- Make it FUN!
- Memorize and recite
- Celebrate holidays with poetry
- Find a new favorite funny poet
- Poetry breaks

Flickr image by hotdiggitydogs



# Poetry Break

- Did you bring in a poem to share?
- Tell the story behind your poem
- Why you brought it in
- Why it is a memorable one
- Who wants to share with all of us???



Flickr by CarbonNYC

## Introduction to Poetry

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.

~ Billy Collins



Flickr image by Brian\_Kellett



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## Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village, though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it's queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there's some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark, and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

~ Robert Frost



Flickr image by 8 eyes photography

## After English Class

I used to like “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.”  
I liked the coming darkness,  
The jingle of harness bells, breaking—and adding to  
-the stillness,  
The gentle drift of snow. . . .

But today, the teacher told us what everything stood for,  
The woods, the horse, the miles to go, the sleep---  
They all have “hidden meanings.”

It’s grown so complicated now that,  
Next time I drive by,  
I don’t think I’ll bother to stop.

~ Jean Little

*©Jean Little, reprinted from Hey world, here I am! published by Kids Can Press*



Flickr image by Thomas Hawk

# A Place to Start

- When you first introduce poetry writing talk to your students about what poets do.
- Poets take the ordinary and make it extraordinary.
- Poets see with the heart.
  
- Valentine for Ernest Mann by Naomi Shihab Nye
  
- <http://www.schooltube.com/video/eedfcd1fd533c5c3907a/>

# Where does Poetry Hide?



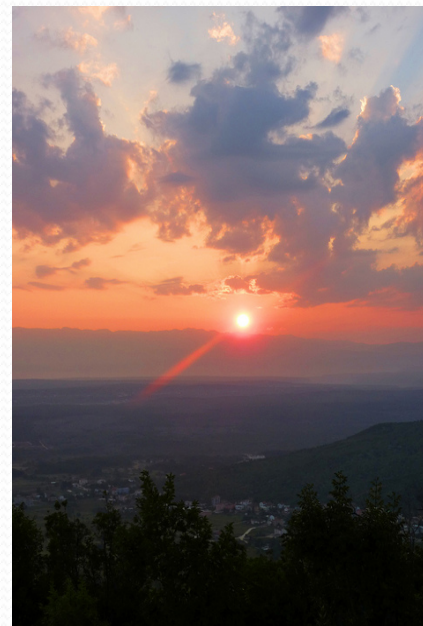
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Flickr image by pengrin



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# ABCs of Poetry

- All poets start from love of words and wordplay

**P**



What else do you see?

**r**

**d**

**a**

## The Lovely Letter “L”

The Letter “L” is an upturned bridge

The front of a forklift

Chicken legs

9:00,3:00,3:30,3:15

An arrow with out a head

A drying rack

A street pole

A flock of seagulls from a distance in a painting

A backwards “J”

A chair

A laptop

A seven

Captain hook

A ladle

A doorjamb

Ludicrous Lobotomy Linguist Limburger Lizard



# Your turn....

- Pick a letter and be creative
- Enjoy playing with letters and words
- Any one want to share?

B

H

Z

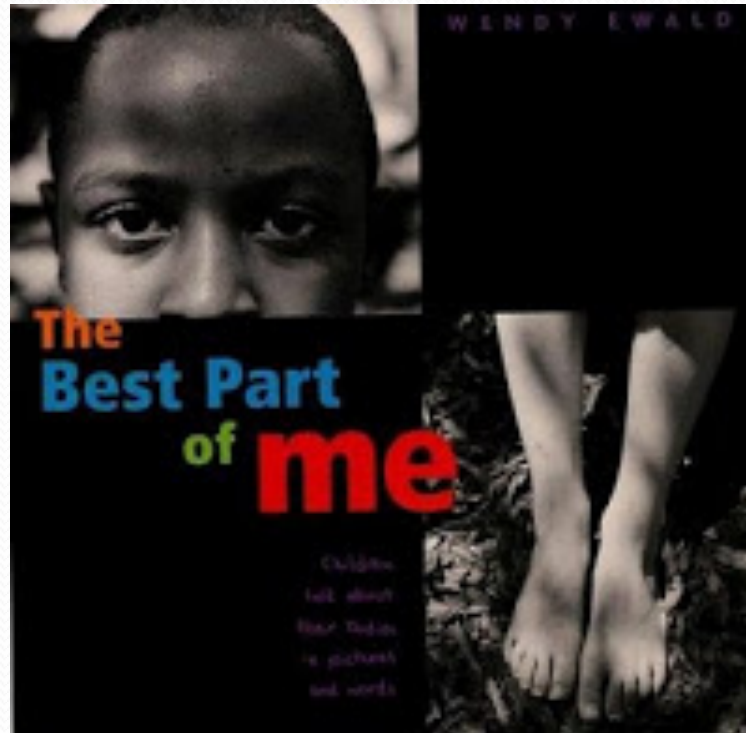
S

K



# The Best Part of Me

- Listen to a couple of examples from Wendy Ewald



©Wendy Ewald, published by Little Brown Books for Young Readers









# Your turn...

- Choose the best part of you and write a poem about it
- Remember it doesn't have to rhyme it simply has to create an image, a mood or an emotion
- Who would like to share?

# THE IMPORTANT BOOK



Words by Margaret Wise Brown · Pictures by Leonard Weisgard

Listen to a couple of excerpts to uncover the pattern and then we'll try to do one ourselves.

©Margaret Wise Brown, published by Programs and Genres



# Let's do this one together

The important thing about poetry  
is...

1.

2.

3.

But the important thing about  
poetry is...



Found Poetry

Books

Photographs


Music

Street Signs

Speeches

Newspaper Articles





A great reminder from poet Naomi Shihab Nye that we can find poetry all around us. We simply need to rediscover the lost poet hiding inside of us and remember when we used to see the world and describe it in unique ways

- <http://video.pbs.org/video/1851879674/>

# More ideas to browse through...

A classroom padlet wall of poetry inspired by pictures

<http://padlet.com/wall/wespoetry>



**The Green Investigation by  
Kate .P**

What is this!  
It is so green  
And very lean!  
I think it is edible,  
Why don't I try it.....

## Poem in Your Pocket Day

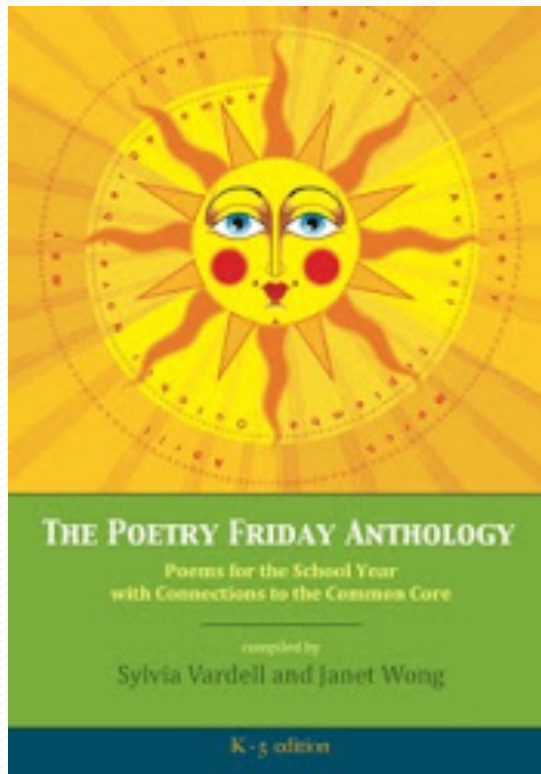
<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>



Second graders made hanging pockets out of cast-off jean pockets. They filled them with poems and delivered them throughout the school. Recipients were invited to fill them with favorite poems of their own and send them back to the students.

## Poetry Fridays

<http://www.kidlitosphere.org/poetry-friday/>



At the end of the week many children's book aficionados and bloggers use their sites to contribute favorite poems or chat about something poetical in an event called Poetry Friday. The features can be for children or adults, can be original poems, reviews of poetry books, reviews of poetic picture books, links to poems at copyright protected sites, thoughts about poetry, and more. Song lyrics have been even been featured.

## Book Picks

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/children/poet-laureate-book-picks>



Each month, the Children's Poet Laureate from the Poetry Foundation recommends a book of poetry for children. Selections include classics of children's literature, adult collections that are well-suited to children, as well as newly published books.

Flickr image by Steven Vance

## Confessions of a Reader

Almost autumn.  
A spider  
Stakes a claim  
On a corner  
Of the eight-foot window  
In our living room.  
Each morning  
I admire  
Taut guidelines,  
Carefully placed spokes,  
Dancing gown threads,  
Architecture unrivalled.  
My mother  
Would not tolerate  
Such slovenly housekeeping.  
She would get a broom  
And knock down  
This errant squatter's palace.

I do not.

I am waiting for Charlotte  
To leave a message.



Flickr image by cybershotking

~ Carol Wilcox



