

Crafting Texts: Poetry

Objective

Students will write poems.

Preparation

1. Gather books that help students identify items in nature, such as bird books, plant or flower books, rock books, or tree books.
2. Cut 3" x 2" slips of paper, at least 10 per student.
3. Have a copy of a descriptive poem you can read aloud to students.
4. Provide plain sheets of paper (8" x 11" or larger) and glue.

Procedure

1. Read the poem aloud.
2. Ask students to identify the descriptive words in the poem and how those words help them see, feel, or understand the poem.
3. Explain that students will write poems, using books to gather relevant words.
4. Have students select books.
5. Give each student at least 10 slips of paper to record their descriptive words.
6. Ask students to place their slips of paper onto a plain sheet of paper. Have them move the slips around until they have an interesting order for the words. They may write additional words around the slips to make sentences or sentence fragments to convey their ideas. When they are satisfied with the arrangement and additional words, ask them to glue the slips in place and share the results.

Differentiation: Guide **English language learners** to select items they are very familiar with. Have **above-level students** make cohesive poems describing two or more distinct items in nature.

✓ **Assessment Check:** Circulate to see who can manipulate the slips to make sense of the ideas from the books. What words did they select? Are they the most descriptive? How well did they connect the ideas into a poem? Additional guidance or support may be needed.