Imitating Poetic Forms

Using imitation to help students get started with new literary forms is a teaching strategy with its roots in the pedagogies of Plato and Aristotle. Mr. Holden gives students some questions to help them work through their understandings of the poem “Spaghetti” by Frank Flynn. Then he invites them to try their hand at a similar poem:

After dinner tonight, pick one food that you ate or would like to write about. Using “Spaghetti” as a mentor poem, make your own poem about your food. Be sure to be descriptive and use your own words.

Here is a sample response from one student (spellings are true to those in the original):

Stake
A plate of cury
with stake
all coverd fat meat
and cury just cam
out of the baker.
Cut up with a fork
and knife.

fat
chunky
hot
steemee
smelling
good.

COW.
I pick it up
throw it in my mouth.
It chews up
tangles in my
teeth grease
all around my mouth
makes me a greasy man.