

Creating Poetry Lessons

One of the easiest ways to introduce students to the pleasures of poetry is to let them explore a number of short, easily accessible, appealing examples. Depending on the needs of your students and the curriculum, you can construct single-page handouts to illustrate key concepts. Mr. Holden has developed lessons around the following concepts and has found the listed poems appealing to his students. (You may notice that some poems appear on more than one list.)

Print/White Space

"Peace and Joy" by Shel Silverstein

"No Matter" by Lee Bennett Hopkins

"The Mirror" by Cindy Hayward

"The Garden Hose" by Beatrice Janosco

"I Wish I Had a Friend" by Marat

"Rain" by Lilian Moore

"I Can" by Mari Evans

Line Breaks

"People Who Must" by Carl Sandberg

"Young Woman at a Window" by William Carlos Williams

"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

"This Tooth" by Lee Bennett Hopkins

Surprising Language

"Apple" by Nan Fry

"The Dark Gray Clouds" by Natalia M. Belting

"When It Is Snowing" by Siv Cedering

"Rain" by Adrien Stoutenberg

Repetition

"April Rain Song" by Langston Hughes

"Things" by Eloise Greenfield

"Dreams" by Langston Hughes

"Poem" by Langston Hughes

Choral Reading

"Since Hanna Moved Away" by Judith Viorst

"Things" by Eloise Greenfield

Endings

"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

"Missing You" by Charlotte Zolotow

"Bad Day" by Marci Ridlon

"Koala Means the World to Her" by Karla Ku

"Fueled" by Marice Hans

"Circles" by Myra Cohn Livingston

Titles

"All These I Hear" by Dahlov Ipcar

"Pussy-Willows" by Aileen Fisher

"Chant" by David McCord

"The World Has Changed" by Charlotte Liberty Walker

"Subway Rush Hour" by Langston Hughes

"Poem for Debbie" by Nikki Giovanni

"Keepsake" by Eloise Greenfield

"Sunday" by James Schuyler

"This Is Just To Say" by William Carlos Williams