

# 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.