

Poetry Writing at a Glance

1. Share kids' poems, and notice what student poets have done. (10-15 min,)
2. Write a poem or two in front of your students. (5-10 minutes).
3. Write a poem together. (5-10 minutes).
4. With the class listening in, orally brainstorm with several students about the poem they are about to write. (5-10 minutes)
5. Students independently write poems. (20-25 minutes)
6. Celebrate students' efforts in a whole class share. (10-15 min.)

Note: Aim for a 2-3 week focus on poetry writing. Based on your time constraints, the continuous cycle above can easily be spaced over multiple days.

Benefits of Poetry Writing

- builds immediate success for all students
- focuses on the joy of writing
- sets a positive tone for the classroom
- encourages experimentation with language and form
- de-emphasizes (initially) punctuation and "skills"
- teaches a powerful way to express personal voice
- fosters delight in rhythm, repetition, and word play
- teaches importance of titles, ending lines, word choice
- taps into students' interests and knowledge
- connects writing with reading
- frees kids up to write

Note: Once students know how to write free verse, they often choose to write poems when they are given free choice of topic and genre.

Regie Routman

