

How to Teach Kids to Love Poetry

(Even If You Don't)

Presented by Laura Candler



Laura Candler - Classroom Teacher

- Classroom teacher (30 years)
- National Board Certified
- Master's Degree in Elementary Ed.
- Milken Educator Award



Teaching Resources Website

www.lauracandler.com

File Cabinet Strategies My Products Training My Blog

Interactive Teaching Made Easy

Welcome to Laura Candler's Teaching Resources! Here you'll find hundreds of printables, interactive lessons, and engaging activities for the elementary grades. Visit my virtual **File Cabinet** to find free classroom-tested resources, including special activities in the **Seasonal File Cabinet**. Click the menu links above to see what I offer here on Teaching Resources, or go directly to my **File Cabinet** and browse the resources there. In addition to the resources I offer here on my website, I share teaching strategies and lesson tips on my blog, **Corkboard Connections**.

Great Resources!

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Corkboard Connections Blog

www.corkboardconnections.com

How to Teach Poetry, Step by Step (It's Easier Than You Think!)

APRIL 25, 2017

When you saw those words, what was your first reaction? "Come on now, be honest! You might have been thinking, "Yikes! I love poetry, and now I have an excuse to teach it!"

But more likely you were thinking, "Yikes! Is it that time already? Poetry is so boring and hard to teach, and my students don't like it either. How will I fit poetry lessons into my already packed schedule?"

No matter how you feel about poetry, if you're an upper elementary teacher, you probably have to teach it at some point during the year. Poetry is included in most reading curriculums, and almost every standardized reading test has at least a few poems. Even if your students aren't tested on poetry, there are many reasons to teach it. Just think about the amount figurative language used in poetry, and you'll understand how learning to read and write poetry can

I'm Laura Candler, blog author, educator, and creator of the Teaching Resources website. I love to share ideas and create engaging, time-saving resources for busy teachers.

Are You in the Right Place?

- I wish I didn't have to teach poetry, but I do. I feel absolutely lost. Help!
- I love teaching poetry, but there's not enough time in the day to plan amazing lessons.
- I just don't get poetry and I never did. How can I teach it to my students?

Here's What You'll Learn...



- Why you should teach poetry (even if you don't like it)
- Step-by-step strategies for teaching kids to read, write, and understand poetry
- How to get kids to dig deeper and enjoy talking about poetry
- How to transform reluctant writers into enthusiastic poets!

Poetry Webinar Handouts

The collage features several handouts: 'Webinar Notes' with a date field and questions; 'How to Get Kids Talking about Poetry' with a Venn diagram; 'Write Powerful Similes and Metaphors' with a list of prompts; 'Ident Poetry Writing' with a checklist; and 'Get Kids to Dig Deeper into Poetry (Close Reading Strategies)' with a circular diagram.

Check your confirmation email for a link to the handouts.

Poetry Webinar Freebies

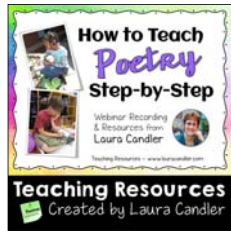


The collage includes: 'Poetic License' with a license form; 'Jenissa's Dilemma' with a character analysis form; 'Enigma Dilemma Discussion Cards' with a poem and discussion questions; 'Five Poems Made Easy' with a poem and a drawing prompt; and 'Five Poem Brainstorming Forms' with a grid for generating ideas.

How to Teach Poetry Step by Step Webinar Pack



- HD Quality Video Recording
- Audio Mp3 Recording
- PD certificate (90 min)
- Easy access to freebies
- PDF handouts of the slides



My Goal ...

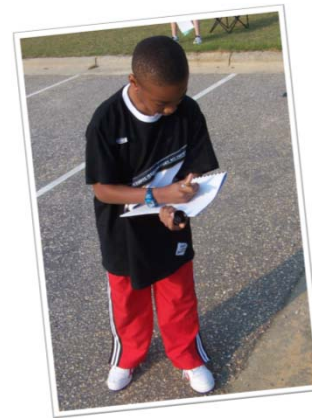


I want you to be so **excited** and **inspired** that you can't wait to get started **teaching poetry!**

Why Teach Poetry? Laura's Story



Why Teach Poetry?



The Mane of the Sun

As the sunshine
lights up the earth,
its beaming rays
flash off the
lion's mane of the sun.
Through the clouds rising
making the earth brighter,
brighter,
and brighter
as he makes morning
with his beautiful mane.
~ Keenon

Why Teach Poetry?



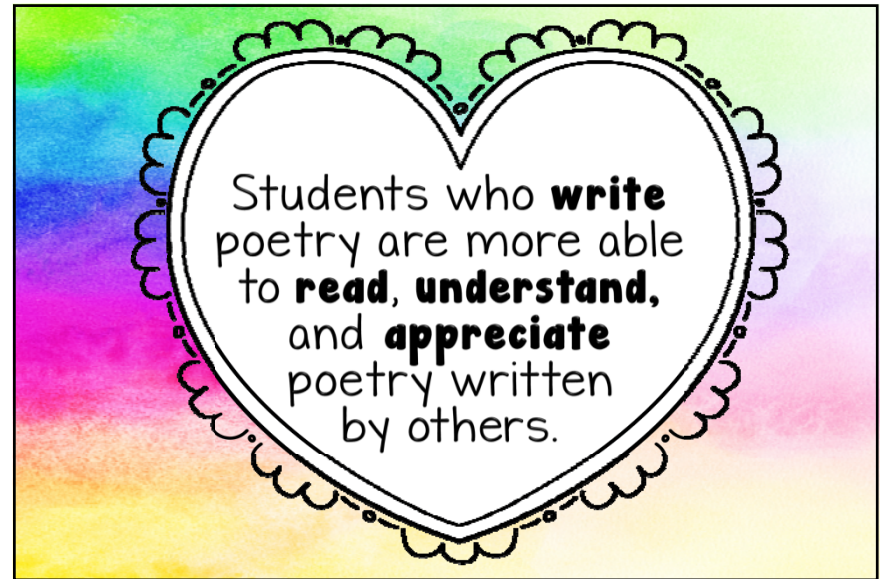
Me and you go together
like I am the key
and you are the diary
and I open all your secrets.

Me and you go together
like socks

I am the right
and you are the left
walking together
like friends.

Me and you go together like
best friends all the time.

~ Keyera



More Reasons to Teach Poetry

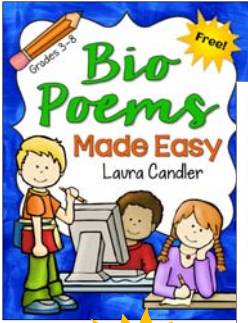
1. Fosters an appreciation for precise and powerful language.
2. Writing free verse poetry helps kids develop confidence as writers.
3. Helps you connect with your students and get to know them better.
4. Improves performance on vocabulary and reading comprehension tests.

Poetry Unit Step-by-Step

- 1 Write a simple formula poem.
- 2 Explore free verse poetry.
- 3 Compare poetry and prose.
- 4 Teach the language of poetry.
- 5 Dig deeper and discuss poetry.
- 6 Craft poetry together and alone.

Formula Poem Suggestion #1

Write Bio Poems 1



Free!

Bio Poems Made Easy
By Laura Candler

Grades 3-5


What are Bio Poems?
A bio poem is a poem that describes a person or animal. It is a way to learn more about someone or something in a creative and fun way.

How to Write a Bio Poem:
1. Choose a person or animal to write about.
2. Think of interesting facts about them.
3. Write a poem that describes them using the facts you thought of.

Suggested Poem Structure:
1. Name
2. Age
3. Location
4. What they like to do
5. What they are good at
6. What they are afraid of
7. What they dream of

Sample Bio Poem

Laura
Dedicated, creative, caring
Lover of black cats, great books, and warm
chocolate chip cookies
Who wonders if there is life on other planets
Who fears that we may be destroying our
own planet
Who feels happy and peaceful when she's
kayaking the Lumber River
Who cares about rain forest animals and
plants losing their homes
Who dreams of hiking up beautiful mountains
in far away places!



Bio Poems Made Easy
By Laura Candler

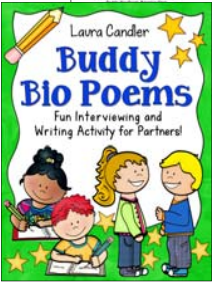
Sample Bio Poem

Laura
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Who wonders if there is life on other planets
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Who feels happy and peaceful when she's
kayaking the Lumber River
Who cares about rain forest animals and
plants losing their homes
Who dreams of hiking up beautiful mountains
in far away places!

Lover of ...
wonders ...
is about ...
ns ...

Formula Poem Suggestion #2

Write Buddy Bio Poems 1



Buddy Bio Poems
By Laura Candler

Fun Interviewing and Writing Activity for Partners!

What are Buddy Bio Poems?
A buddy bio poem is a poem that describes a person or animal. It is a way to learn more about someone or something in a creative and fun way.

How to Write a Buddy Bio Poem:
1. Choose a person or animal to write about.
2. Interview your partner about them.
3. Write a poem that describes them using the facts you learned.

Partners for Buddy Bio Poems

Bio Poem Buddies
A. _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____
E. _____
F. _____
G. _____
H. _____
I. _____
J. _____

Explore Free Verse Poetry 2



OLD ELM SPEAKS
TREE POEMS
By Kristine O'Connell George



A Writing Kind of Day
Poems for Young Writers
By Kristine O'Connell George



TWILIGHT COMES TWICE
By Ralph Fletcher
Illustrated by Kaiti Essler

Kristine O'Connell George

Ralph Fletcher

Free Verse Poetry

2

- No rhyme or rhythm
- Doesn't follow a pattern or formula
- Often captures a moment or conveys emotion in few words

The Swing

2

How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside-

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown-
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Poem
with
Rhyme
and
Rhythm



The Swing

2

My dad gives me
a quick push
and I swing
higher
higher
higher

my feet touch the sun
and my heart sings

I am free!

by Laura Candler

Free
Verse
Poem



Snooping

2





One good thing about a little sister
is that if I give her a boost
she can reach
that mysterious box
hidden
on the top shelf.



From *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter - Reprinted with permission

2

One bad thing about a little sister
is that she can't keep secrets.
When my secrets are inside Emma,
they leak out slowly,
like air out of a balloon,
or fast —
in one enormous
Tattletale Explosion.

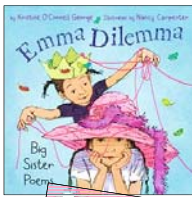




From *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter – Reprinted with permission

2

Emma Dilemma

Kristine O'Connell George

Sniping

One good thing about a little sister
is that if I give her a hint
she can reach
that mysterious box
hidden
on the top shelf.

One bad thing about a little sister
is that she can't keep secrets.
When my secrets are inside Emma,
they leak out slowly,
like air out of a balloon,
or fast —
in one enormous
Tattletale Explosion.

— From *Emma Dilemma: Big Sister Poems*
Written by Kristine O'Connell George
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
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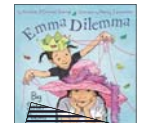
Free!

2

Share & Discuss Poems Daily*

Show each poem while reading it aloud.
Then chat about the poem informally.

- What do you notice about it?
- How does it make you feel?
- Did the poet use words in new or interesting ways?
- Does the poem remind you of a situation in your life?

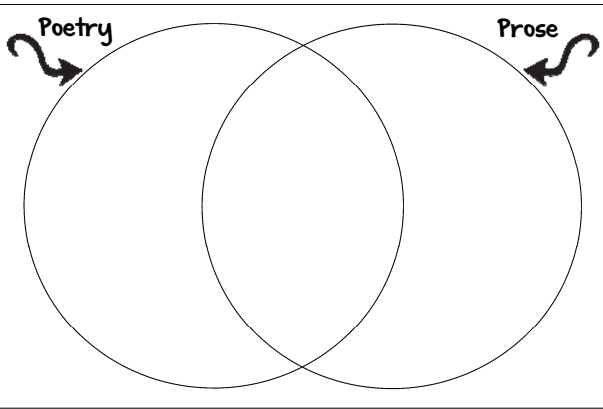



*Be sure to include free verse poetry!

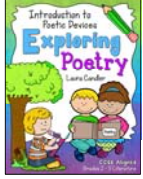

3

Compare Poetry and Prose

What is poetry? What is prose?
How are they alike and different?



3

Prose

Early this morning, the fog rolled in from the harbor slowly and quietly. It spread through the hills near the city and stayed for hours. Then the sun came out, and the fog faded away before noon.

Poetry

Fog
The fog comes on little cat feet.
It sits looking over harbor and city on silent haunches and then moves on.
by Carl Sandburg

Prose and Poetry

Which selection is an example of prose?
Which one is poetry?
How are they alike and different?

3

Early this morning, the fog rolled in from the harbor slowly and quietly. It spread through the hills near the city and stayed for hours. Then the sun came out, and the fog faded away before noon.

Fog
The fog comes on little cat feet.
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Comparing Prose and Poetry

Prose

Poetry

3

Comparing Prose and Poetry


<p>Prose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> paragraphs complete sentences 	<p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stanzas phrases and short lines may rhyme may have a rhythm
<p>similes</p> <p>metaphors</p> <p>can tell a story</p>	

4

Teach the Language of Poetry

8 Commonly-Used Poetic Devices

Rhyme	Repetition
Rhythm	Alliteration
Simile	Onomatopoeia
Metaphor	Personification



Teach the Language of Poetry 4

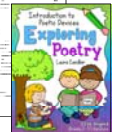
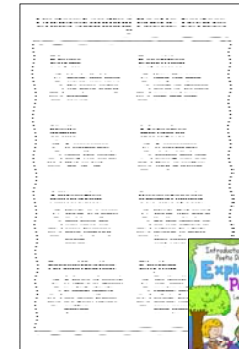
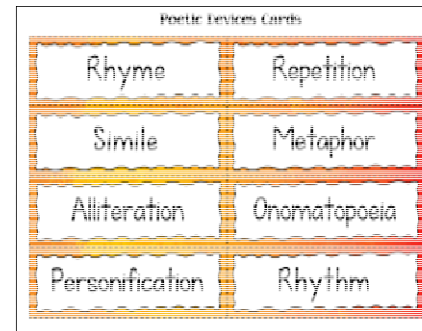
Introduce these terms by sharing poems that use specific poetic devices



Fog
The fog comes
on little cat feet.
It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.
by Carl Sandburg

Teach the Language of Poetry 4

Provide team cards, word wall cards or a "cheat sheet" for students



Teach the Language of Poetry 4

Partner Activity - Poetic Device Hunt

Gather a collection of poetry books or use your basal reading text



Teach the Language of Poetry 4

Partner Activity - Poetic Device Hunt

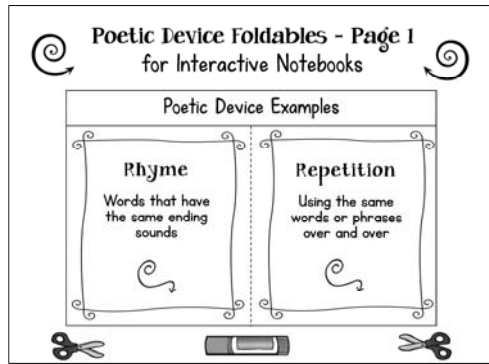
Students work together to hunt for examples of poetic devices



Teach the Language of Poetry

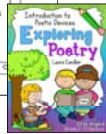
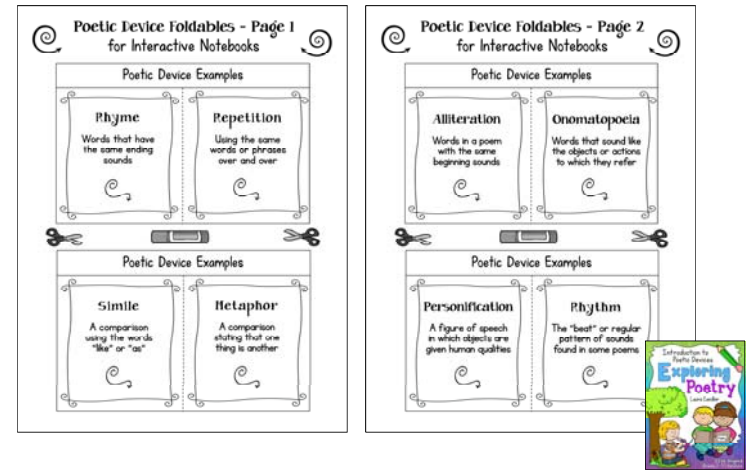
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Students record examples in a journal and/or interactive notebook



Teach the Language of Poetry

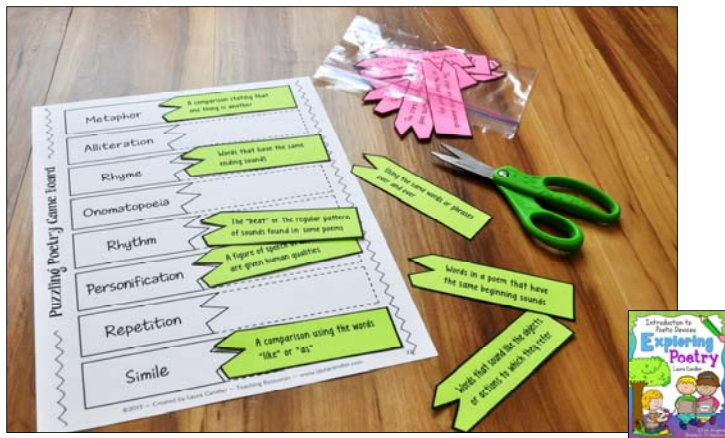
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Teach the Language of Poetry

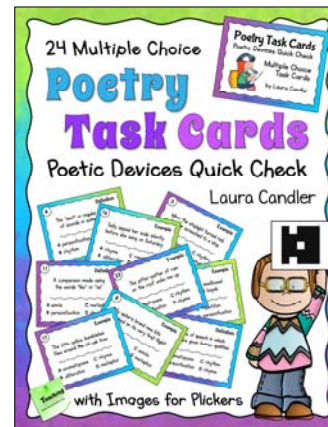
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Play games to practice poetry terminology



Teach the Language of Poetry

4




Poetic Devices Task Cards

- Fun test prep
- Images for Pickers
- Multiple Choice

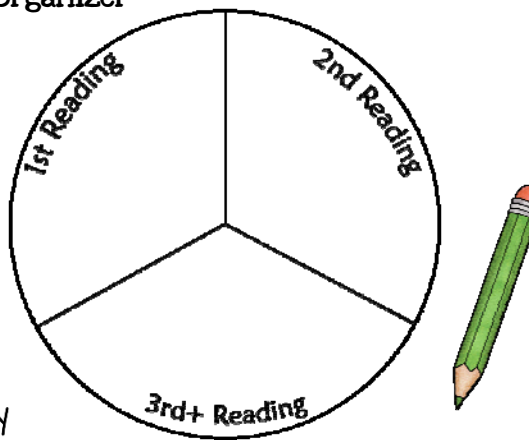
Dig Deeper and Discuss Poetry 5

1. Teach students how to dig into poems with close reading.
2. Foster collaborative discussions.
3. Provide support and scaffolding for written response.



Poetry Peace Map 5

Graphic Organizer



Close Reading Strategy

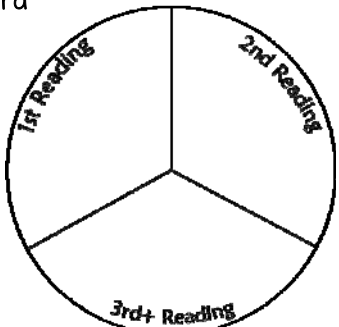
Poetry Peace Map Example 5

Dreams

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

Langston Hughes



Poetry Peace Map 5

Printables and Variations


Summarizing

Name _____

Poetry Peace Map

Title _____

What do you think the poem is about? Record your thoughts after each reading.



Summary


Identifying the Theme

Name _____


Poetry Peace Map

Title _____

What do you think the poem is about? Record your thoughts after each reading.




Theme



Poetry Peace Map

Half-page Size for Journals

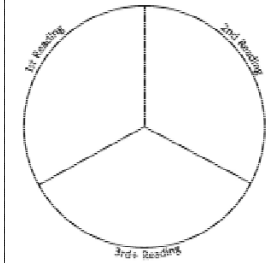


5

Poetry Peace Map

Title _____

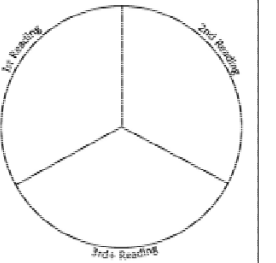
What is the poem about? Record your ideas after each reading.




Poetry Peace Map

Title _____


What is the poem about? Record your ideas after each reading.





Guiding Poetry Discussions

Talking Sticks Poetry Discussion




Poetry Discussion Prompts

<p>1. What is the title of this poem? Who wrote it? What is it about?</p>	<p>2. Identify and describe the poetic devices used in the poem. Be sure to refer to specific details or examples in the text.</p>
<p>3. Do you think this poem has a theme? If so, what is it? If not, why do you think the poet wrote this poem?</p>	<p>4. If imagery is used in the poem, which image do you think is the most vivid? How was figurative language used to create the image?</p>
<p>5. Were any parts of this poem confusing? If so, what was confusing? How did you figure out the meanings of those parts?</p>	<p>6. What is your favorite line or stanza? What do you like about this part of the poem?</p>

Recharge & Write About Poetry

5




Snooping

One good thing about a little sister is that if I give her a boost she can reach that mysterious box hidden on the top shelf.

One bad thing about a little sister is that she can't keep secrets. When my secrets are inside Emery they leak out slowly, like air out of a balloon, or fast — in one enormous Tattletale Explosion.

— From *Emma Dillman*
Written by Emma Dillman
Illustrated by [unclear]



Recharge & Write About Poetry

5

Free!





Recharge & Write About Poetry 5

Recharge & Write

Before You Begin
Decide who will be the first Leader. Place a cup or can in the center of the team for the "recharger." To begin, all team members place their pencils into the recharger. Everyone will need a copy of the assignment page.

What To Do

- The Leader reads the first question aloud. Team members discuss a variety of possible answers, but it's not necessary for everyone to agree on the correct answer.
- The Leader asks if everyone is ready to write. If some members are not ready, continue the discussion a little longer. When everyone is ready, all team members take out their pencils and write the answer in their own words. No talking while writing!
- After everyone answers that question, they place their pencils back into the recharger and wait for the others to finish.
- Rotate Leaders for each question, and repeat steps 1 - 3. Be sure to discuss each question with the group before writing the answer on your own.

Recharger Rules
Pencils In = Talking
Pencils Out = No Talking

Analyzing a Poem

Name _____
Title _____ Poet _____



Answer each question using details from the poem to justify your response.

- What do you think this poem is about?

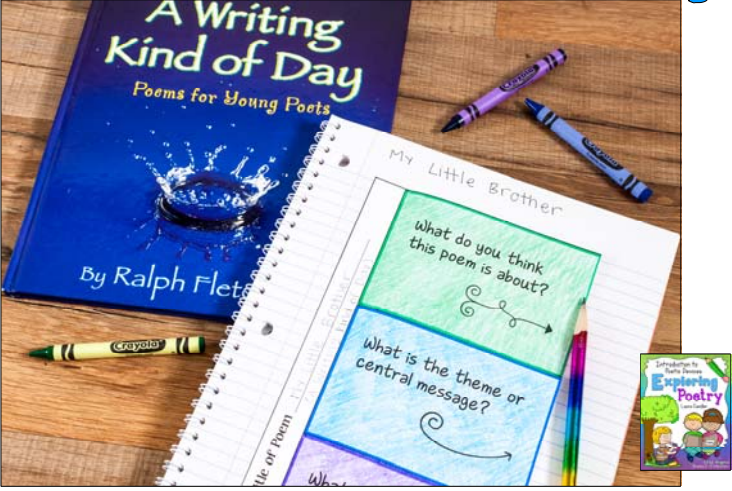
- Identify and describe two examples of poetic devices used in this poem.

- Do you think this poem has a theme? Why do you think the poet wrote it? Pr

- What is your favorite line or stanza?

Independent Written Reflection 5



Craft Poetry Together & Alone 6

- Craft Color Poems
- Craft similes & metaphors
- Craft comparison poems
- Provide opportunities for independent poetry writing
- Share poetry




★ ★ ★

Students who **write** poetry are more able to **read, understand,** and **appreciate** poetry written by others.

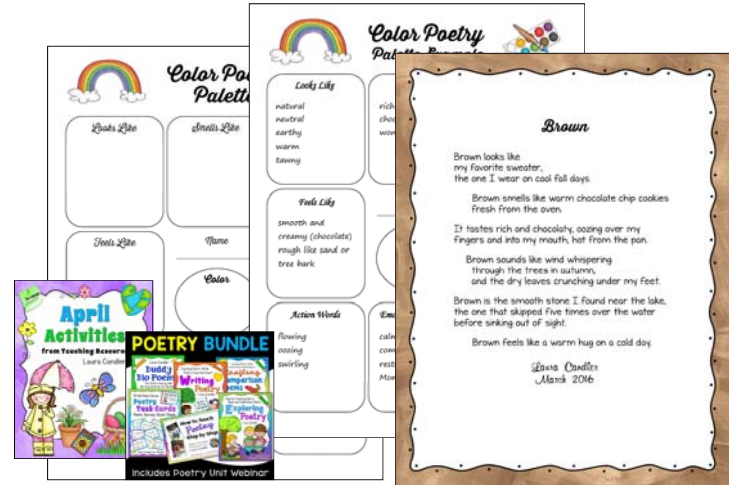
Craft Color Poetry Together

6



Color Poetry Lesson

6

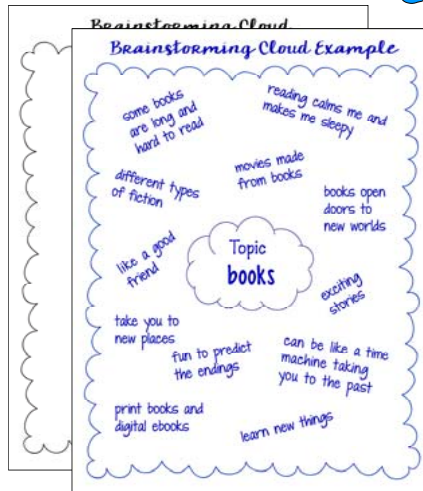


How to Craft Similes and Metaphors*

6

1. Choose the right topic.
2. Brainstorm ideas about the topic.

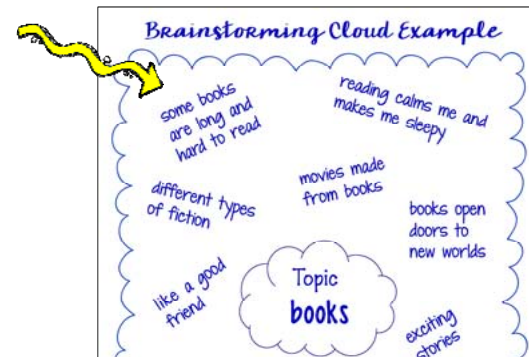
*Whole class lesson



How to Craft Similes and Metaphors

6

3. Look for "seeds" of similes and metaphors.



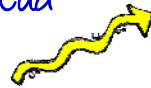
How to Craft Similes and Metaphors

6

4. Choose a "seed" and write a basic simile or a metaphor.

Example:

some books
are long and
hard to read



Reading a hard book is like climbing a mountain.

How to Craft Similes and Metaphors

6

5. Revise and/or edit your writing.

Example:

Books can be like mountains towering over me, steep and challenging to climb, but worth the struggle.



Craft Comparison Poems

6

Combine several images into one poem.

Sample Comparison Poem 1

The Mane of the Sun

As the sunshine lights up the earth, its beaming rays flash from the lion's mane of the sun, through the clouds rising making the earth brighter, brighter, and brighter as he makes morning with his beautiful mane.

by Keenan, 5th Grade

Sample Comparison Poem 4

War Is...

War is a game that endangers many lives.

War is a twister that takes your parents away.

War is a NASCAR race with a 1,000 caution flags.

War is a raging dog that rips you apart.

- Travis, 5th grade

Crafting Comparison Poems

6

How to Write *Similes and Metaphors*

- Choose the right topic.**
Choose an idea, an emotion, an object, a color, or other topic that interests you or makes you experience strong feelings.
- Brainstorm ideas about the topic.**
Write your topic in the middle of your paper. Quickly jot down ideas that come to mind when you think about this topic. If you can't think of anything to write, choose a different topic.
- Find "seeds" of similes and metaphors.**
Look through your brainstormed ideas. Think about other objects or experiences that are similar to those ideas in some way.
- Write a simile or metaphor.**
Write a simile or metaphor comparing your topic to a different object or idea. Add details to help the reader understand the comparison.
- Revise and edit your writing.**
Reread your sentence or phrase. Revise the wording to include vivid vocabulary that paints a word picture for the reader.

Examples:
friends, books, homework, growing up, trying out for a team



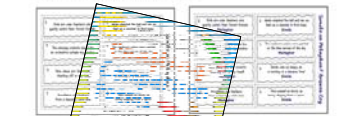
Example:
Books can be like mountains towering over me, steep and challenging to climb, but worth the struggle.

Exploring Similes and Metaphors Step-by-step Lesson

Writing a strong simile or metaphor is more challenging than you might think! In this lesson, you'll guide your students through the process of creating vivid images.

Materials Needed:
It's helpful to have a document camera or other method for displaying the sample poems and your students' work during this lesson. In addition, your students will need individual dry erase boards and markers or paper and pencil for writing similes and metaphors.

1. Review Similes and Metaphors
It's best if your students have had prior experience with similes and metaphors before they start writing them on their own. But even if they are already familiar with those terms, it won't hurt to start off with a quick review. The simplest method is to display the eight examples (page 11), read at a time, and ask your students to decide if each example is a simile or a metaphor. You can have them write an "S" or an "M" on a dry erase board to show you or use another response method. The eight simile and metaphor examples can also be used for a partner sorting activity. The answers are shown in blue on page 12.



2. Introduce
Before you start writing them on their own, it's best if your students have had prior experience with similes and metaphors before they start writing them on their own. But even if they are already familiar with those terms, it won't hurt to start off with a quick review. The simplest method is to display the eight examples (page 11), read at a time, and ask your students to decide if each example is a simile or a metaphor. You can have them write an "S" or an "M" on a dry erase board to show you or use another response method. The eight simile and metaphor examples can also be used for a partner sorting activity. The answers are shown in blue on page 12.

Crafting Partner Comparison Poems 6

Crafting Partner Comparison Poems

After your students have written a class poem together, it's time to have them craft a collaborative poem. Collaborative poems are easier than Team Poems to write together in teams, so the process is more focused on the writing of the poem itself.

Planning Ahead
Near the beginning of the lesson, you'll have your students prepare for this, print or copy enough copies of Topic Request (page 21) so that each student will have one. Then print enough copies of Partner Poetry Assignments (page 22) to provide one slip for every team. You'll also need a pad of small sticky notes for each team.

Tip: You may want to do the end of one day so that you can collect their request slips. This will give you the assignment slips for the next day.

Step-by-step Partner Lesson

- Review Comparison Poems and Add Topics to Chart**
Start by reviewing the steps of crafting a class comparison poem. Display the page of Comparison Poem Topics (page 20) and have students brainstorm topics to add to the chart.
- Students Request Topics**
Explain to your class that each student will be able to write one line of the poem. Each student will be able to write one line of the poem. Each student will be able to write one line of the poem.

Partner Poetry Assignments

Topic _____ Names _____	Topic _____ Names _____
Topic _____ Names _____	Topic _____ Names _____
Topic _____ Names _____	Topic _____ Names _____
Topic _____ Names _____	Topic _____ Names _____

Crafting Team Comparison Poems 6

Crafting Team Comparison Poems

The Crafting Team Comparison Poems lesson is almost identical to the partner lesson. Fortunately, if your students have already written partner poems, you should be able to move quickly through the early stages of the lesson. In fact, you can use the same topic request forms that your students filled out in the partner lesson.

Planning Ahead
Early in this lesson, you'll ask your students to select five topics from the chart of class brainstormed in the class lesson. Then you'll form teams based on these requests. To prepare for this, print enough copies of Collaborative Poetry Topic Request (page 21) so that each student will have one team. Then print enough copies of Team Poetry Assignments (page 22) to provide one slip for every team. You'll also need a pad of small sticky notes for each team.

Tip: You may want to conduct the first part of the lesson at the end of one day so that you can collect their request slips. This will give you time to form teams and fill out the assignment slips before the writing portion of the lesson.

Step-by-step Team Comparison Poetry Lesson


- Review Comparison Poems and Add Topics to Chart**
Start by reviewing the steps of crafting a class comparison poem. Display the page of Comparison Poem Topics (page 20) and have students brainstorm topics to add to the chart.
- Students Request Topics**
Explain to your class that each student will be able to write one line of the poem. Each student will be able to write one line of the poem. Each student will be able to write one line of the poem.

Team Poetry Assignments (1-4)

Team 1 Topic _____ Team Members _____	Team 2 Topic _____ Team Members _____
Team 3 Topic _____ Team Members _____	Team 4 Topic _____ Team Members _____


Foster Independent Poetry Writing 6

1. Ban rhyme for a week (or more)!
2. Have fun with the concept of poetic license!
3. Create poetry journals
4. Set aside time for writing poetry
5. Share and/or publish student poetry



What is Poetic License? 6

The freedom to change facts and disregard the rules of language in order to create a desired effect



Poetry is the Burger King of writing!
You can have it your way!

Fun Poetic License Freebie

6

Free!



Poetic License

Granted to _____

is hereby granted permission to change facts and disregard the rules of language when writing poetry in order to create a desired effect.

_____ Date _____ Teacher

Poetry Matters

by Ralph Fletcher

- Written in kid-friendly language students (but great for teachers, too!)
- Explains how to find ideas for poems, how to use imagery, and how to craft a poem
- Includes lots of student poetry examples



Provide Time for Poetry Writing



Private Eye Poetry Field Trip



Corn Husks

They crumple like dried onion peels.
The lines on the skin look like spaghetti noodles.
Corn husks are the color of the desert sand.
They are as light as a feather in your hand.
~ Anthony, 5th grade

Private Eye Magnifying Lenses





Set Aside Time for Sharing Poetry

Teaching kids to **love poetry** is giving them a **precious gift** they can unwrap over and over.



\$30+ value  ~~**\$24.95**~~
\$19.96

Webinar Thank You
20% Off
Thru March 31st
(Ends at Midnight EDT)



POETRY BUNDLE
Includes Poetry Unit Webinar

Poetry Webinar Freebies and Resources 

www.lauracandler.com/webinars/poetry



Teaching Resources
File Cabinet Strategies My Products Training My Blog

First time here?

How to Teach Kids to Love Poetry (Even If You Don't)
Webinar Resources Page

Thanks for attending or watching my poetry webinar! I've loaded this page with links to freebies and other resources to make your next poetry unit easy and fun!

Poetry Unit Bundle
20% Off Until Midnight March 31st (EDT)

The six products in the Poetry Unit Bundle would cost over \$30 if purchased individually, so the current price of \$24.95 is a 20% discount. You can get another 20% off if you purchase it before the end of the day on March 31st. Click the links below to check out the individual products in this bundle.

- How to Teach Poetry Step by Step Webinar Pack
- Buddy Bio Poem: Partner Writing Activity

Kudos From Teachers

POETRY BUNDLE
WEBINAR INCLUDED

What Teachers are Saying About Laura's Poetry Resources (Anonymous ToT Feedback)

"This unit was the answer to my prayers. Of course when I told my 5th graders that we were going to be working on a poetry unit, most of them