

PASSING POETRY ON
PART I



LESSON PLANS | EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES | VIDEOS | POETRY

THE FAVORITE POEM PROJECT IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING, DOCUMENTING
AND ENCOURAGING POETRY'S ROLE IN OUR LIVES. **FOR MORE LESSON PLANS
AND RESOURCES VISIT**

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Outcomes

The best poetry is lasting, and will speak across historical and generational divides. Through poetry, this exercise encourages students to connect with someone from another generation and to reflect upon the power and longevity of poems — rhythms, ideas, feelings and images.

Lesson by Sean Cusick, Shepherd Hill Regional School, Dudley, MA





Ideas and Methodologies

- The teacher will need to make arrangements with some retirement communities and nursing homes, so that students will be able to conduct interviews at these places (a parent volunteer may help with coordinating this). The teacher may ask an administrator to identify particular residents who enjoy reading and/or poetry, and help set up visits with the students. The students will make appointments to visit someone in a retirement community or nursing home, asking if the person has a poem he or she holds dear. They may read the poem and discuss it together. Does the person associate the poem with a particular memory? If the interviewee does not have a copy of the poem, but knows the title, it's the student's responsibility to track down a copy in print.
- Before a second visit, the student acquires a copy of the poem, reads it, and writes a paragraph or two about his or her response thoughts about the poem.
- The student visits the elderly resident a second time and shares his or her response to the poem. On this visit, the student will also bring a favorite poem that he or she has chosen to read the elderly resident, sharing reflections on the poem's personal significance. The student will also bring a copy of the poem, written out by hand, for the resident to keep, and should invite him or her into a discussion of the poem.
- In a subsequent class, each student will do a short presentation on the experience — reading both the poem chosen by the interviewee and the student's own selection. (These presentations could also be video or audio recordings of the readings, if the student has the resources to create those records).





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