

POETRY AND LOSS
PART II



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
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Outcomes

Poetry can capture a life and say something about a person that an obituary cannot. Remembering the dead (funeral/memorial service) is a "daily life" use of poetry.

*Lesson by Frances Ashe, Kate Oneschuk (Holliston High School, Holliston, MA),
Monica Hiller (Watertown High School, Watertown, MA) and Allyson Sklover
(Boston Latin Academy, Dorchester, MA)*





Ideas and Methodologies

- Show the following FPP videos:

"Out, Out — " by Robert Frost

Read by Elizabeth Wojtusik, Teaching Artist, Humarock, Massachusetts

"The Holy Longing" by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (tr. Robert Bly)


Read by Olivia Milward, Retired Teacher, San Francisco, California

"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

Read by John Ulrich, Student, South Boston, Massachusetts

"Facing It"

Read by Mike Lythgoe, Foundation Director, Washington, DC

- Students can choose the video segment and corresponding poem they wish to work with for their break-out groups.
 - **Group** discussion: issues brought up in chosen segment and poem.
 - **General discussion:** How do the poems serve as memorials? Discuss the difference between memorializing someone and grieving for someone. For whom do we create this memorials and associations? Consider elegy, eulogy and obituary. What information is contained in each form? What's the purpose of each form?
 - **Write** an obituary for a character in "Out, Out — " "We Real Cool" or "Facing It"
 - **Write** an elegiac poem based on an actual obituary.
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Lesson Resources

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From the Favorite Poem videos and Americans'
Favorite Poems:

"Out, Out — " by Robert Frost

"The Holy Longing" by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (tr.
Robert Bly)

"We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks

"Facing It" by Yusef Komunyakaa



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