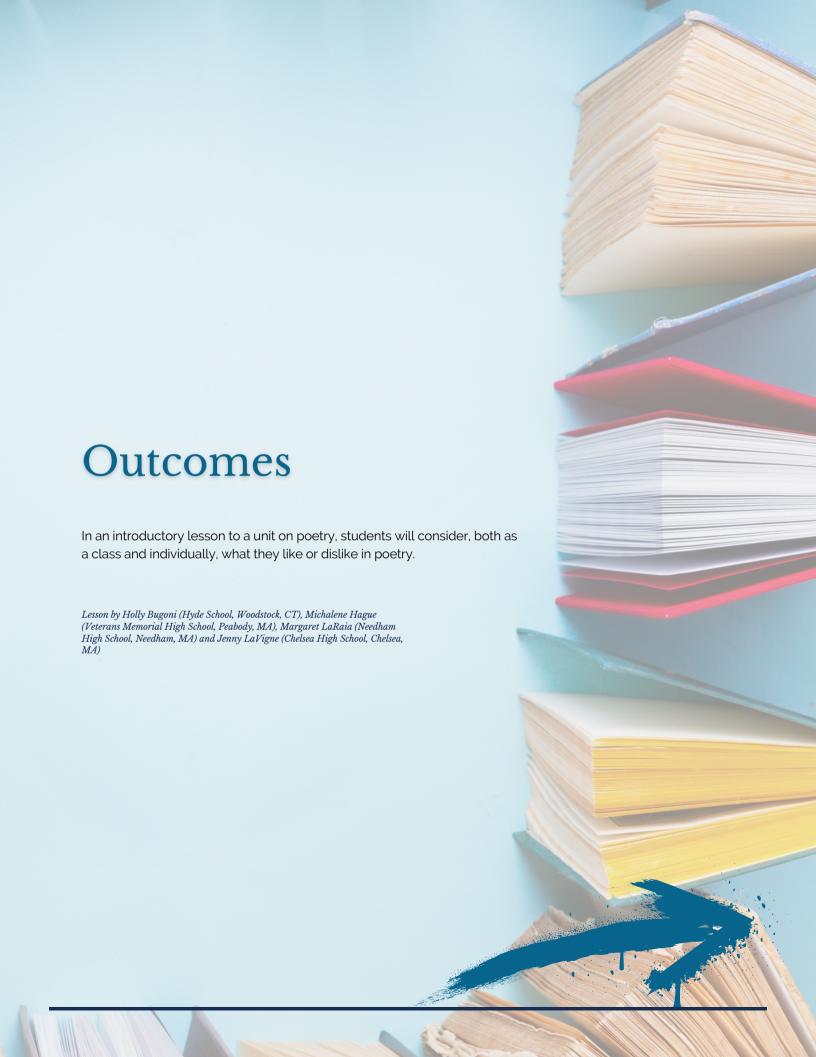
FAVORITE POEM PROJECT LESSON PLANS

SEEKING POEMS, SHARING CONNECTIONS PART IV: WHAT IS POETRY?



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 FAVORITEPOEM.ORG



Ideas and Methodologies

- The poems listed on the "lesson resources" page offer some challenges to a narrow definition of poetry most of them are unrhymed free verse poems with varying line lengths. The teacher will read at least one of these poems to the class as an opening for student discussion on how the poem differs from, or corresponds to, the students' expectations of poetry.
- After the reading, give students copies of the poem, so they can see the shape it takes on the page. Students will
 also identify what elements of the poem they like or dislike.
- After a preliminary discussion, students will go to the library with the assignment of finding a poem that appeals to them. In addition to setting aside various poetry anthologies, there will be a folder of poems the teacher has selected for students to consider if they choose.
- Once students have picked their poems, they must write out the poems by hand twice, as a way of familiarizing
 themselves with the language. As a homework assignment they will each write a reflection on why they like their
 chosen poem what in particular makes it a good poem, what in it speaks directly to them. In a subsequent
 class, each student will read his or her poem aloud and will offer some thoughts on it.
- It's a good idea to ask students to have only the text of the poem in front of them for their class presentation. That way, their reflection will be natural they'll be talking to each other about poetry rather than assuming a bookreport style monotone. Of course, they will turn in what they've written, but they need not simply read it out to the class.
- As a model for the assignment, students will watch one or all of the following Favorite Poem Project Videos:
 - "I'm Nobody! Who are you?" by Emily Dickinson
 - Read by Yina Liang, Student, Decatur, GA
 - "Minstrel Man" by Langston Hughes
 - Read by Pov Chin, Student, Stockton, CA
 - "Nick and the Candlestick" by Sylvia Plath
 - Read by Seph Rodney, Photographer, Long Beach, CA
- Over the next week, a few students (3-6) will read and explain their chosen poems each day. Part of the class period will be devoted to the presentations.
- The readings will be used as a discussion starter, and students will develop a list of words, phrases and ideas that
 come in handy when discussing poetry. Expanding on their intuitive sense of poetic tools, students will begin to
 learn the names for those tools. The teacher may offer some particular terms.





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