



Favorite Poem Response Board

Recommended Grade Range: Elementary School

Learning Objective(s)

Students will be able to...

- ✔ Gain exposure to poetry.
- ✔ Build community through poetry with their classmates, peers, and school staff.

Lesson Agenda

- ▶ *One of the challenges we face as elementary educators is how to deepen and maintain our students' exposure to poetry. There are only so many hours in the day and there is much to do. We know that the consistent use of poetry will increase our students' literacy skills. However, where and how do we integrate this strand? **This lesson plan outlines a monthly routine to bring poetry to your school community.***
- ◆ School faculty and staff will choose poems to be shared through various media at the beginning of each month.
 - ◆ The poems may reflect a common theme or unit of study, demonstrate a particular form or style, or may just be good poems worth sharing.
- ◆ One poem should be chosen each month.
 - ◆ Distribute the poem in multiple ways, depending on your school's resources and routines. Consider...
 - ◆ Posting the poem to a school bulletin board, with extra copies available for people to take.
 - ◆ Having a school community member read the poem over the loudspeaker or at a school assembly.
 - ◆ Publishing the poem on the school website or in the school newspaper.
- ◆ Invite students, families, and community members to respond to the monthly poem.
 - ◆ Responses can be emailed or written (consider leaving a place for written responses near the bulletin board, or reserve some class time for students to write their responses).
 - ◆ These responses can take any form, including personal reflection, ideas the poem brings up, particularly striking lines and words, a comment on the formal quality of the poem or on its themes. Younger students may want to respond with visual art.

Suggestions for Next Steps

- ◆ There are many opportunities for expanding upon this monthly routine.
 - ◆ You could assign a project in which students research the poet, write emulations of the poem, or analyze its meaning through discussion or writing.
 - ◆ Depending on the poem's content, you could collaborate with another teacher to hold a discussion around the poem across multiple grades.

Favorite Poem Project Lesson Plan

Favorite Poem Response Board *(Continued)*



Lesson Resources

Your local or school library, the web (poets.org, poetryfoundation.org, poems.com), or the Favorite Poem Project website are all great places to find poems for this routine.

The Favorite Poem Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating, documenting, and encouraging poetry's role in our lives.



This lesson was made possible by submissions from Amy Bruns and Kevin Crowley (Johnson Elementary School, Natick, MA) and Rachel M. Dillon (NYC Public Schools).

For more lesson plans, videos, and classroom resources
visit www.favoritepoem.org.



Stay up to date with news and events by
following [@FAVEPOEM](https://www.instagram.com/FAVEPOEM)