



## Sharing with Parents

Recommended Grade Range: Elementary School

### Learning Objective(s)

#### Students will be able to...

- ✓ Integrate poetry into their daily lives.
- ✓ Connect with family and community members about a variety of poems.
- ✓ Discuss and write about their reactions to a poem.

### Lesson Agenda

▶ *This lesson outlines a weekly classroom routine.*

At the beginning of the school year, parents should be notified that one poem will be sent home each week for students' homework.

- ◆ These poems should be varied, including poems of other languages with English translations. Parents are encouraged to read the poem with their child and discuss it.
- ◆ Students should then respond to the poem in writing (ideally on a worksheet provided with the poem). If possible, parents should include their own responses, too. Including a place for adult responses on the worksheet is useful for encouraging parents.
- ◆ Responses might address...
  - ◆ What is this poem about?
  - ◆ What is something you like about this poem?
  - ◆ What does this poem remind you of?

### Suggestions for Next Steps

- ◆ Once students have read a variety of poems at home, they should have some sense of what kinds of poems they like. Based on their tastes, they could select a poetry collection or anthology to read, respond to in journal entries, discuss with their classmates, and/or bring home to share with their family.
- ◆ To maximize parent involvement, parents could fill out a questionnaire about their involvement and their thoughts about sharing poetry with their child(ren).
- ◆ Students could try writing poems based on or inspired by the poem(s) they've brought home over the course of the year.
- ◆ Parents could visit classrooms and, with their child, lead a discussion about one of the poems they read together at home.

### Lesson Resources

Your local or school library, the web ([poets.org](http://poets.org), [poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org), [poems.com](http://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 Jennifer Hauck (Frank Sokolowski School in Chelsea, MA), Elaine Magliaro (Malcolm Bell School in Marblehead, MA) and Rachel M. Dillon (NYC Public Schools).

For more lesson plans, videos, and classroom resources  
visit [www.favoritepoem.org](http://www.favoritepoem.org).



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