



## Seeking Poems, Sharing Connections: Initiating Activity (Variation 2)

Recommended Grade Range: High School

### Learning Objective(s)

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

- ✓ Understand and discuss the reasons why a person feels a connection to a poem.

### Lesson Agenda

#### Do Now

Begin by showing 2-3 FPP videos in which the speaker explains their connection to a poem (see a list of suggested videos in the “Lesson Resources” section of this Lesson Plan).

- ◆ **Ask students to take notes**, as they watch the videos, on the reasoning each speaker gives for why they like their poem.

#### Share Out

Ask students to share out their notes, either as a whole class or in small groups.

- ◆ You might ask any of the following follow-up questions to guide the discussion:
  - ◆ What did (Speaker Name) find important about this poem?
  - ◆ How did the poem affect (Speaker Name)?

#### Mini Lesson

Ask students to select, from the clips shown in class, the poem that most interests them.

- ◆ Some students may not know how to begin; you may ask them to think about particular words or lines that stood out to them, or general topics/themes in a poem that they can relate to.

#### Share Out

- ◆ Ask students to **share out** their poem choices from the mini lesson and explain their reasoning.



### Homework

Ask students to find a poem that they find meaningful to bring to the next class.

- ◆ You might also ask them to prepare a short statement explaining what makes the poem meaningful to them.

### Suggestions for Next Steps

This introductory lesson could lead well into an independent exploration of poetry for students, with the goal of their finding a meaningful poem to share and discuss with the class, or finding a poem with challenging vocabulary that they can research and teach their peers.

### Lesson Resources

**[Favorite Poem Project videos](#); we recommend the following as particularly well-suited for this lesson:**

- "The Sloth" by Theodore Roethke
- from "Song of Myself" (50 & 52) by Walt Whitman
- "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" (288) by Emily Dickinson
- "Hornworm: Autumn Lamentation" by Stanley Kunitz
- "A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- from "Gitanjali" by Rabindranath Tagore
- "Minstrel Man" by Langston Hughes
- "Ay Ay Ay de la Grifa Negra" by Julia de Burgos

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 Carol Resneck (Chelsea High School) 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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