

California Federation of Chaparral Poets

Youth Poetry Lesson 4th-6th



How To:

Poetry Lesson

Step 1: Activate Prior Knowledge—What do your students already know about poetry?

Step 2: Explore Key Concept—What is poetry?

Step 3: Introduce the poet and provide historical/biographical information on him or her.

Step 4: Read the mentor poem aloud at least two times (teacher-read, student-read, pair reading, audio recording, etc.)

Step 5: Provide suggested prompts/questions to students.

Step 6: Give students age-appropriate prompt, and have them start writing!

Step 7: Have students conduct peer workshops.

Step 1:

What is Poetry?

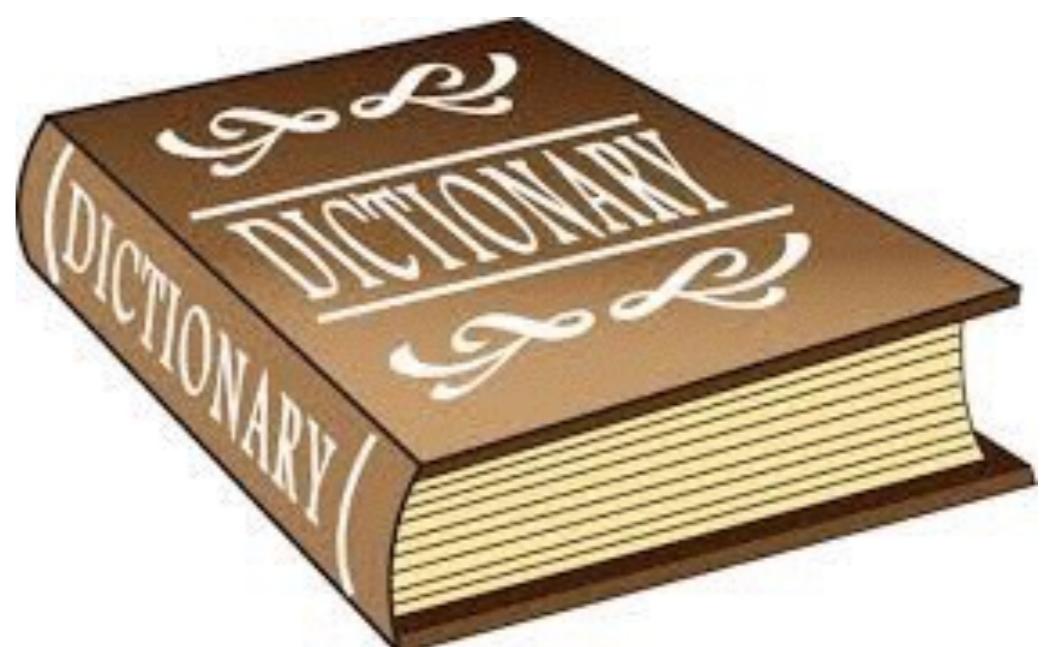
Brainstorm any words that you think of when you hear the word “poetry”



Step 2:

What is Poetry?

Poetry (noun) is literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; poems collectively or as a genre of literature.



Step 3:



Find five facts about William Butler Yeats.

Steps 4-6:

Grade 4 to Grade 6 (Ages 9-11)

Poem & Prompt

THE LAKE ISLE OF INNISFREE

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for the honey-bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes
dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the
cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

—William Butler Yeats



Possible Prompts or Questions:

- What is concrete imagery?
- Look up definitions for any word you are unfamiliar with. How does your understanding of these words contribute to your understanding of the poem?
- Think about a place that makes you feel peaceful. In a quickwrite, describe it using concrete imagery.

Innisfree Prompt

After reading “The Lake Isle of Innisfree” and contemplating your own peaceful place, write a poem about that place and what you find significant about it. Remember to use concrete, descriptive language as you describe this place.

Step 7:

Peer Workshop (Small Group)

- ▶ Write questions you have about your own piece.
- ▶ Pass pieces to the left.
- ▶ Each member of the group will have 10 minutes to read through the piece and write **warm** and **cool** feedback before we pass to the left again.
- ▶ Once we go all the way around, the author will have time to read and respond to the responses.

WARM FEEDBACK

- I really like how you...
- You did a great job at...
- It was clear that you worked hard on...
- It was really interesting when you...

COOL FEEDBACK

- You may want to consider...
- I noticed that you...it may be more useful to...
- Have you thought about...
- It was unclear to me when you...

Poetry Commandments

