

Unlocking Your Inner Poet!

Introduction (5-10 minutes):

Have you ever listened to a song and loved how the words flowed? That's a kind of poetry! Poetry is like painting pictures with words. It can be funny, sad, thoughtful, or silly. Today, we're going on an adventure to become poets ourselves! What feelings or ideas would you like to capture in a poem?

What is Poetry? (10-15 minutes):

- **Word Pictures:** Poets use words to help us see, hear, smell, taste, and feel things. Let's look at a simple poem (show an example if available, or read one aloud). What pictures do you see in your head?
- **Rhyme Time (Optional):** Sometimes poems rhyme (like 'cat' and 'hat'), but they don't always have to! Rhyme can make poems sound musical. Can you think of rhyming words for 'sun'? (fun, run, won, begun)
- **Cool Comparisons (Similes & Metaphors):** Poets love comparing things!
 - A **simile** compares two things using 'like' or 'as'. Example: 'The cloud is fluffy *like* cotton candy.'
 - A **metaphor** compares two things by saying one thing *is* another. Example: 'Her smile *is* sunshine.'

Can you think of a simile or metaphor for how you feel today?

- **Poem Shapes:** Poems come in different forms! Two fun ones are:
 - **Haiku:** A Japanese poem with 3 lines. Line 1 has 5 syllables, Line 2 has 7 syllables, Line 3 has 5 syllables. Often about nature.
 - **Acrostic:** A poem where the first letter of each line spells out a word written vertically.

Activity 1: Word Collector (10 minutes):

1. Choose a topic! It could be your favorite animal, a season, a feeling, or even your favorite food. Let's pick 'STAR'.
2. Grab your notebook! Let's brainstorm words about a 'STAR' using our senses:
 - **See:** bright, tiny, distant, twinkles, diamond, white, yellow
 - **Feel (imagine):** far away, hot (close up!), magical, hopeful
 - **Hear (imagine):** silent, maybe a 'twinkle' sound?
 - **What it reminds you of:** wishes, night sky, space, diamonds

Activity 2: Let's Write! (15-20 minutes):

Now, let's use our brainstormed words to write a poem! Choose either a Haiku or an Acrostic poem about your chosen topic.

- **Haiku Attempt (STAR):**
Bright light in the night (5 syllables)
Shining like a tiny diamond (7 syllables)
Wish upon you now (5 syllables)
- **Acrostic Attempt (STAR):**
Shining in the dark
Twinkling way up high
Always seems so far
Reaching for the sky

Don't worry about making it perfect! The goal is to play with words and express yourself. Feel free to use your colored pencils to illustrate your poem.

Sharing & Wrap-up (5 minutes):

Would you like to share your poem? Reading it aloud helps you hear its rhythm! Great job exploring poetry today. Remember, poets notice the world around them and use words to share what they see and feel. Keep your 'poet eyes' open this week and maybe try writing another poem!