

LESSON 19: CLASS POETRY READING

Conduct a class poetry reading day. This should be a celebration of all the great work students have done throughout the unit and a chance for students to share their work with a real audience. The following guidelines might help the day run smoothly:

- Make sure each student has a chance to share at least one original poem, accompanied by a short biography or an “About the Poet” in which the student shares where they are from and how that influences their poetry of place.
- Encourage the audience to applaud each poet.
- Display students’ work around the room, much like an art gallery or museum. Try to leave space for parents and students to move around the room. An alternative would be to have the poems printed onto poster board and ask each student to stand by his or her poster to answer questions parents might have about their work.
- Make the classroom as inviting as possible. You might consider rearranging the furniture for the day to emphasize that this is a special occasion.
- Encourage students to dress neatly and take extra care with their appearance for the event.
- Invite additional audience members, such as family and friends, other class groups, and/or the principal.
- If possible, have bound or stapled copies of the class poetry anthology/ collection available for visitors to peruse or take. Be sure to leave time for students to autograph their anthologies for their fans!

Summative Assessment

Administer the performance assessment tasks during the next lesson or soon after the poetry reading day. Use the information from the performance assessment to assess students’ growth throughout the unit. Compare students’ performance on this task to responses on the unit pre-assessment.