

Lesson 3: Geography and Poetry

☐ Getting Started

Today you will read poems about the culture and the geography of the Southeast region of the U.S., and you will write two of your own poems.

Stuff You Need

- *My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States* by Lee Bennett Hopkins
- *R is for Rhyme: A Poetry Alphabet* by Judy Young
- blank paper
- journal

Ideas to Think About

- What techniques do poets use to make their poems more interesting?

Things to Know

- In an **acrostic poem**, each line begins with a letter in the word that is the subject of the poem.
- Poets often select themes from nature as the subject of their poems.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read the section of poems about the Southeast U.S. in *My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States*.

1. Which poem did you enjoy the most? Why?

2. What did you learn today about the Southeast region of the U.S.?

3. Record your favorite line from a poem you read today.

4. What famous Americans were mentioned in the poems in this section?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Poems and Geography

The poems in the book *My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States* are all related to the geography and culture of the different regions within the United States. Label the states, cities, and bodies of water that are mentioned in the poems of the Southeast. Use the map on the "Poems and Geography" page.

☐ Activity 2: Seasons

Reread the poem "Knoxville, Tennessee." In this poem, the poet uses a long list of nouns to describe summer in Knoxville. Brainstorm a list of nouns related to your town during a certain season. Then write a poem in your journal about your community that includes a long list of nouns like in the poem "Knoxville, Tennessee."

☐ Activity 3: Acrostic

Read the letter "A is for Acrostic" in *R is for Rhyme*. Write an acrostic poem about your state on a sheet of white paper.

Wrapping Up

Nature and the geography of the land have served as the subject of many poems throughout history. Why do you think this is a popular subject for poets?

Read the poems you wrote today aloud. As you read them, see if you can think of any improvements that would make them even better.

Poems and Geography

Directions: Label the states, cities, and bodies of water mentioned in the poems about the Southeast Region.



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? Ideas to Think About

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Things to Know

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- Poets often select themes from nature as the subject of their poems.

⦿ Skills

- Describe a variety of regions in the United States. (SS)
- Locate, in absolute and relative terms, major landforms, bodies of water, and natural resources on a map. (SS)
- Describe and compare physical and cultural characteristics of the regions. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

Explain to your child that today he will explore themes of nature within poetry. Poets often capture the natural relationships and interactions within their poems.

Reading and Questions

1. Which poem did you enjoy the most? Why?

Answers will vary.

2. What did you learn today about the Southeast region of the U.S.?

Answers will vary.

3. Record your favorite line from a poem you read today.

Answers will vary.

4. What famous Americans were mentioned in the poems in this section?

Boone (Daniel) and Booker T. Washington (your child may also mention the literary character Huckleberry Finn)

Activities

Activity 1: Poems and Geography

Answer Key

Kentucky; Knoxville, Tennessee; Mississippi River; Alabama; Florida Everglades

Activity 2: Seasons

Ask your child to read his poem aloud and discuss the nouns he chose for the poem to describe his community during a certain season of the year.

Activity 3: Acrostic

Read your child's acrostic poem and discuss the facts he chose to include in his poem.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

1. Why do you think poets often use nature themes as the subjects of their poems?
2. What is an acrostic poem? (Each line of the poem begins with a letter in the word that is the subject of the poem.)

Things to Review

Review the names of the states found in the Southeast and some of the geographical features of the area. Discuss the subjects found in the Southeast poems.