

Lesson 9: Write About What You Know

☐ Getting Started

Many poems use few articles (a, the, an), linking verbs, or pronouns (he, she, it, they, etc.) in their poems. Instead, they focus on the important elements of figurative language, word choice, patterns, and structure.

Stuff You Need

- *Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech
- *R is for Rhyme: A Poetry Alphabet* by Judy Young
- a variety of poetry books

Ideas to Think About

- In what ways do poets relate to readers and affect their emotions?
- How do poets appeal to the emotions and senses of the readers?
- What relationships and patterns exist among the words in poetry?

Things to Know

- Most authors advise aspiring writers to write about experiences and ideas with which they are familiar.
- You should never copy another author's writing word for word, but you can incorporate his or her ideas into your own writing.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read pages 46-60 in *Love That Dog*. Answer these questions.

1. Do you think Jack should write Mr. Walter Dean Myers a letter inviting him to come to Jack's school? Why or why not?

2. What does the word "inspired" mean in the context of the story?

3. Do you think Mr. Walter Dean Myers will come to the school? Why or why not?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Book of Poetry

Find a time to visit the library and find poetry books. Look through a variety of poetry collections and pick a book that looks interesting. If you can't get to the library, use poetry books you have at home. Read the books and see how many of types of poems and poetry tools from the book *R is for Rhyme* you can find. Record your discoveries on the "Book of Poetry" pages. You can record the title, words from the poem, figurative language phrases, and any other information related to the poetry type or tool listed.

☐ Activity 2: Write About Something You Know

Many authors advise aspiring writers to begin with writing about something they know or an experience they have had. This is why Jack's teacher tells the class to write about a pet. It is easier to find the right words for a poem when you are writing about something in your own life.

Read the letter F in *R is for Rhyme*. Free Verse poems do not follow a set of rules or a rhyming pattern. The poet can create the poem in any way he or she chooses. Write a free verse poem. Remember to use vivid adjectives, interesting nouns, strong verbs, and visual imagery. One of the greatest challenges of writing a poem is deciding how to string the words together in just the right way.

Wrapping Up

Read through the ideas, poems, and poetry tools you discovered and recorded on your "Book of Poetry" pages.

Book of Poetry

Directions: Record the title of a poem, words from the poem, and information related to the poetry type or tool listed.

**A is for
Acrostic**

A

**B is for
Ballad**

B

**C is for
Cinquain**

C

**D is for
Doublet**

D

**E is for
End Rhyme**

E

**F is for
Free Verse**

F

**G is for
Ghazal**

G

**H is for
Haiku**

H

**I is for
Iambic**

I

**J is for
Jingle**

J

**K is for
Kyrielle**

K

**L is for
Limerick**

L

**M is for
Metaphor**

M

**N is for
Narrative**

N

**O is for
Onomatopoeia**

O

**P is for
Picture Poem**

P

**Q is for
Quatrain**

Q

**R is for
Rap**

R

**S is for
Sonnet**

S

**T is for
Tanka**

T

**U is for
Ubi Sunt**

U

**V is for
Villanelle**

V

**W is for
Weak Rhyme**

W

**X is for
Xanadu**

X

**Y is for
Your Voice**

Y

**Z is for
Zany Words**

Z

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Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

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- How do poets appeal to the emotions and senses of the readers?
- What relationships and patterns exist among the words in poetry?

📖 Things to Know

- Most authors advise aspiring writers to write about experiences and ideas with which they are familiar.
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⦿ Skills

- Define figurative language (e.g., simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification) and identify its use in literary works. (LA)
- Describe structural differences of various forms of writing. (LA)
- Listen to, enjoy, and appreciate written language. (LA)
- Apply knowledge of language structure, grammar, media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss texts. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

Today Jack decides to take a risk. Ask your child if he has ever taken a risk to do something when he was not sure what the outcome would be.

Reading and Questions

1. Do you think Jack should write Mr. Walter Dean Myers a letter inviting him to come to Jack's school? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

2. What does the word "inspired" mean in the context of the story?

Influenced or encouraged by someone.

3. Do you think Mr. Walter Dean Myers will come to the school? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.

Activities

Activity 1: Book of Poetry

Look over your child's "Book of Poetry" pages and read some of the examples and ideas he has recorded. Encourage him to continue adding to the pages as he reads more poems.

Activity 2: Write About Something You Know

Ask your child to read his free verse poem aloud. Discuss his word choice, use of figurative language, and the pattern of his poem. Encourage him to think of ways to improve the poem after he reads over it a few times.

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- If you could meet a famous writer, whom would you want to meet? Why?
- Have you ever been inspired by someone's writing? Explain.
- What other ideas do you have for subjects of future poems?

Things to Review

Review the different rhyming patterns in poetry (stanzas, couplets, quatrains, abab, aabb, abac), figurative language tools (metaphor, visual imagery, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia), and the importance of word choice (nouns with interesting adjectives and strong verbs). Review the different types of poems your child has learned about so far (shape poetry, haiku, acrostic, free verse).