

Poetry A & B

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to you and your child(ren)! I am looking forward to a wonderful year in the Early Poetry and Recitation class (A&B). Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with your child(ren) to help enrich his or her understanding, love, and enjoyment of poetry. I have three goals for our poetry class: exposure to a variety of poetry, opportunities for memorization and recitation of selected poems, and thoughtful class discussions of poems and the elements of poetry.

How the class will be structured:

Each week I will start class by giving students an opportunity to recite the poem or the stanza of a larger poem he or she has memorized the week before. This recitation is not a requirement, but will be highly encouraged. I may give a little support, when needed, to help students get through their recitation ;).

After the students have done their recitations, I will read the poetry selection corresponding to the theme for the week. Some weeks we will discuss the poems as a group. Other weeks, the poems may be compared to each other, acted out, or analyzed. On some occasions we will complete a craft relating to one of the poems. Poetry terms (alliteration, meter, onomatopoeia, personification, rhyme, rhythm, etc.) will be introduced and emphasized during class discussions of the poems.

Towards the end of class I will introduce the poem or stanza from a longer poem, which will be the memory work for the following week. I will read it a few times to the class and we will discuss helpful hints on memorizing the new poem or stanza of a larger poem.

For Homework each week the students will work on memorizing the new poem or stanza so as to recite the poem or stanza at the start of class the following week.

Bonus Crafts: I only have 30 minutes with your kids on Thursdays, so it is very difficult to get through the poetry and work on a craft. However, I have found relevant crafts for some of the poetry themes. I have collected most of the supplies needed to make these crafts and printed out an example of the final product. If you choose to, you may work with your child(ren) on these crafts at home during the week. If your child(ren) would like to share their final product in class (as a quick show and tell), he or she can bring the craft to class. This is not homework and is not required. It's just bonus fun. There is no pressure :).

Supplies needed for class are items normally found in a regular pencil box: pencils, colored pencils/crayons, small scissors, and a glue stick. It is not necessary to have a separate supply box for Poetry. A general pencil box which has these supplies is all that is required. The poems and memory work will be provided to your child(ren) each week and can be placed into the poetry binder which I will give to each student on the first day. Please have your student come with this poetry binder to each class, as it will be used weekly. I have attached a syllabus showing what the theme is each week.

Additionally, I think that poetry can be used to help support reading instruction! I have



heart for and a great enthusiasm about teaching reading ! To that end, I would like to offer a meeting where we can have our own 'show and tell time' discussing reading instruction. I will cover how you can use the memory poems to help support your reading instruction at home and share other ideas I have gleaned over the year in regards to teaching reading. I would love it if you would bring some of your own tips and encouragement on this topic, too. If you would be interested in such a meeting, please email me.

If you have any questions or need to share any information with me before the start of class, please email me at the5robertsons@verizon.net . I look forward to seeing you on Thursdays!

Warmly,
Leila Robertson