

In this unit, students will be given tools and strategies to approach poetry.

What's the story?

Students will explore the **methods** and **devices** used by **poets**, which will prepare them to **read** and **interpret** both **formal and free verse poems**. The poems they will read represent a wide variety of periods and can be enjoyed by younger and older readers alike.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn to read texts **closely** and **carefully**. Because poems are often multidimensional, students will have opportunities to let their imagination flourish, **explore figurative language**, and **expand** their **creativity**.

Students will use a **Poet's Journal**, which has been created to reinforce the unit's **integration of reading and writing poetry**. The poems and activity pages in this journal will allow students to **review** material, **answer** questions, and **complete activities** designed to increase their comprehension. Students will also use these pages to **compose original texts** and apply what they have learned throughout the unit.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is alliteration?
Follow up: Can you give me an example of what it sounds like? What is the difference between repetition and alliteration?
2. What have you learned about the poet Harryette Mullen?
Follow up: Tell me about her poem "Ask Aden."
3. What is the difference between first person and third person?
Follow up: Can you give me an example of each?
4. What have you learned about Langston Hughes?
Follow up: What was the main theme of his poetry? What do you think was the meaning of the poem "Harlem"?
5. What is a metaphor?
Follow up: Can you share a metaphor you talked about in one of the poems you have read? Can you give me an example of a metaphor?
6. What are some strategies you have learned for reading poetry aloud successfully?
Follow up: What have you learned about poetry that has made it enjoyable to read and to write?