



Literary Café Podcast with Katie Glennon

Activity Ideas to Have Fun with Poetry

Suggested Books

Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes

A Child Garden of Verses by Robert Louis Stevenson

Dr. Seuss books with simple verse and rhymes

The Twentieth Century Poetry Treasury by Jack Prelutsky

The Random House Book of Poetry for Children

Poetry books by Shel Silverstein, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *The Light in the Attic*

Poems by Edward Lear or E. E. Cummings

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

Inclusion Ideas for Poetry

Read poets or poetry that include historical references or cultural experiences as part of your studies. For example, when studying American History, included some American poets from that time period who wrote poems about the events or people of that time period or poems that mention people or events from American History.

Some American history examples:

Walt Whitman

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Langston Hughes

Gwendolyn Brooks

For World History:

“The Charge of the Light Brigade”

Or “Flanders Fields”

Study poems about seasons, holidays, or nature when studying these topics.



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Things to do with Poetry

Practice fluency in reading with your children and introduce new vocabulary, sight words and word families with the rhyming patterns.

Circle or underline the sight words or word families with different colors.

Practice identifying parts of speech with circling or highlighting with different colors different parts of speech you are learning.

Read the poems together and after your reader becomes familiar with the poem, you only read up to the last rhyming word and stopping. Allow your reader to fill in the rhyming word either orally or on paper (if you copy the poem on paper and leave a blank space for the last word in the lines of the poem for your reader to fill in the missing rhyming word (or word for the word family you are studying).

Pick a poem of the week or a theme for the month for your poems and do the above mentioned activities for those poems.

Ask questions after you all have read the poem a few times and have your reader practice comprehension and thinking skills in answering them. Have them show you in the poem where they found their answer to your question.

Have a poetry tea each week or at the end of the month. Use this time to review poems or introduce new ones. Read a poem aloud and discuss it over something to drink and eat. Have your children prepare for the tea by picking out their own poems to share with the family and tell the family why they picked it and what the poem means to them.

Have your children start a poetry notebook where they keep copies of the poems you read and study and circle words together. They can also write out short poems they have selected as their favorites or found in a book to share at your tea.

Have younger children draw a picture of a favorite poem or one that you read aloud to them at the tea.

For your Middle and High Schoolers, you can start a club or class that meets once per month or per week if you want to do a semester high school credit of poetry. Study certain poets or types of poems or themes or different time periods of poems or poets. Have group discussions about the poet, poem, meaning of the poem, techniques and literary devices used in the poem. Have the students take notes about the discussion and write notes on a sheet that has the poem and mark it up and keep them in a notebook. Have them share poems they bring to the group and why they picked them and what they mean.

At the end of the semester have a poetry tea or Coffee House Open Mic gathering where everyone shares a favorite poem and talks about it or shares a poem they have written.



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Listen to recordings of poetry read aloud by other readers or the poets. Then have your children practice reading the poem and record themselves. Have them see if they were able to follow the rhythm and pauses and so on in their readings compared to the recordings they listened to.

Study literary devices such as imagery, similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and hyperbole. Start by learning the definitions of these terms and looking at examples of them. Then identify them in short and easy to understand poems and finally, practice writing your own.

Practice writing your own poems following different kinds of forms and the rules and guidelines for those poems.

You can use them to review counting syllables, rhyming, parts of speech, word choice, attention to detail, and self-editing skills.