Poetry Club Work

- Go to your assigned area.
- Read “Honey, I Love”
- Answer the questions related to the craft you are studying.
- Box and mark the poem based on the craft and questions
- Apply the craft you’ve studied to your own poetry
- Write, write, write!
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<td>Expresses feelings and experiences through auditory, musical, and rhythmic tools.</td>
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Image

Painting Pictures with Words

Poets have a special way of painting pictures in a reader’s mind. Since the reader wasn’t there, the poet tries to create “movies” in the reader’s mind through word choice. These words create images that bring the poem alive!

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Search for words and phrases that paint a picture or image in your mind.

3.) Mark or highlight each word or phrase that creates an image.

4.) Sketch a picture of the image these words help to create in your mind after reading the poem.

5.) Jot a brief explanation.

6.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

Poetry Clubs are adapted from the craft group structure suggested in: Heard, Georgia. (1999). *Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School*. (This resource is highly recommended.)
Metaphor/Simile
Comparisons Create Powerful Ideas

Poets view the world in a special way. They are able to compare unrelated things, creating more interesting poetry. They often compare something you know to something you don’t know to help you understand the author’s meaning. When a poet creates a metaphor or simile, it helps the reader look at the topic in a way he/she would never have imagined. Metaphors simply state the comparison and similes use words ‘like’ or ‘as.’

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Search for words and phrases that make comparisons. The words ‘like’ or ‘as’ might be clues to help you.

3.) Mark or highlight the simile or metaphor - each word or phrase that helps you look at something in a new way.

4.) Make a T-Chart in your writer’s notebook. Choose one metaphor or simile. Illustrate the two things that are being compared inside the T-Chart.

5.) Explain what meaning you think the poet was trying to express.

6.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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Words

Words Have Power

Poets select their words carefully - choosing the most exact, truest words for their work. The words a poet chooses are the windows which create music, meaning, and feelings for their readers. Strong, unique, powerful words are a poet’s best friend.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Think about the sounds of the words. Certain words have a musical or rhythmic type of effect on writing. Mark or highlight the words with powerful sounds.

3.) Think about the meaning of the words. Really study the nouns and verbs. Mark or highlight the words that feel precise, exact, and true.

4.) Circle unique, strong, beautiful, interesting words. These are often words that surprise you or stick in your mind for some reason.

5.) Make a list of the words you marked or highlighted. Write an entry in your writer’s notebook about why you think the poet chose these particular words. Discuss how these words affected you too.

6.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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Line Break/Stanza
The Structure of a Poem

Poets make big decisions about the way they will structure or organize their poems. Choosing where to break lines and create new stanzas contributes to the meaning and rhythm of a poem. Stanza means “room” in Italian, each one serving a different purpose for the poet. Line breaks and stanzas often signal to the reader where to pause and for how long in a poem.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Look at where the poet chose to break the lines of the poem. Mark each line break with a /. What do you notice about the line breaks? What types of words are often at the end of lines?

3.) Circle how many stanzas are in this poem. What do you notice about the stanzas?

4.) Write a short entry in your writer’s notebook about how the line breaks and stanzas help add meaning and music to the poem.

5.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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Beginning and Ending
Opening and Closing with Care

Poets are thoughtful about the ways they begin and end their poems. The beginning of a poem is like opening a door. Poets often try to catch the reader’s attention right from the start. The ending of the poem closes this door, creating resolution and a feeling of completeness.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) How does the poet begin the poem? Does it start in the midst of the experience? Does it begin with an image? A surprise?

3.) How does the poet end the poem? Does it surprise you? Make you think? Does the poem feel complete?

4.) In your writer’s notebook, open-up to a clean two-page spread. On one side, write the beginning of this poem and illustrate the image in your mind. On the other side, write the ending of this poem and also include an illustration. Jot some thoughts about why the poet may have chosen to begin and end the poem in this way.

5.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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Music
The Beauty of Sound

Poets often use specific words and sounds that are musical in their writing. Musical word choices and sounds are not only pleasing to the ear, but they are often meaningful to the poem’s message.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Search for words where the poet uses sounds to make the poem sound musical.

3.) Mark or highlight the words that create sound: an echo, a chime, a sound effect, specific word choice, etc.

4.) Do these sounds only affect the music of the poem or do they contribute to the meaning, too? Explain.

5.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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Repetition and Pattern
Using Words or Phrases More than one Time

Poets sometimes create patterns and repetition within their poems, choosing to repeat special words, lines, or phrases. Poets don’t just choose any ol’ word to repeat! Repetition or pattern is usually used because the repeated idea is important to the poem’s message. The poet wants this big idea to resonate in the reader’s mind.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Where are there parts in the poem that repeat words, lines, or phrases? Mark or highlight repeated parts.

3.) Does the poem have a predictable pattern? If so, does the pattern change or stay the same? Why does it stay the same or why did the poet make it change? Mark or highlight any patterns you notice.

4.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club and answer these two questions:

   a. Why do you think the poet chose to repeat the words you’ve highlighted?
   b. How does the repetition and pattern help the poem’s message?

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Rhyme
Words with Similar Ending Sounds

Poets will sometimes choose to rhyme words within their poems. Words that rhyme might be inside the stanzas or at the end of a line. When words rhyme they have a meaningful connection. Rhymes sound musical and also help the meaning of the poem.

1.) Read the poem provided.

2.) Are there words that rhyme in the poem? Check inside the stanzas and at the end of the lines.

3.) Mark or highlight the words that rhyme. Do you notice a pattern with the words that rhyme? (Every other line, etc.?)

4.) Do the words that rhyme have any other meaning connections? Are these words similar in other ways?

7.) Share what you’ve discovered with the other members of your poetry club.

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