

Task 04: Exploring Elements of Poetry

Standards:

- C.R3 Identify important components of free verse poetry (e.g. line breaks, stanza, writer's voice, sensory detail or imagery, tone, symbolism, theme, personification, metaphor, simile, alliteration, onomatopoeia)
- C.R4 Interpret and analyze the components used to convey meaning in free verse poetry

Task 04:

This task should start close to the beginning of the poetry unit and continue throughout. The teacher can decide to do a new group of questions each day or spread them out over a larger period of time. This can be decided based on how much practice students need with a particular group of questions. They may need only one day or a couple of days. Provide students with ample opportunities to work on poems, to explore, and discuss the important components and their effect. Students should know at the end of the unit they will be given a poem to put their knowledge to the test (Poem Reflection found below).

Minimum- Five- 60 minute periods with the following format:		
	20 min	During whole class instruction, the teacher should model how to use a group of questions (found on the next page) with an example poem.
	40 min	Students then work with partners on the same set of questions with poems they have chosen together. During the discussion students should work on the question set modeled by the teacher. Students should also feel free to explore other question sets. This is ok even if they have not been modeled by the teacher. This will allow students to explore poems freely through discussion.
1-60 min period	<p>Poem Reflection- Students should have had sufficient teacher models and opportunities, discussing components before assessment is given.</p> <p>Provide students with a poem. ("A Poem is a House" is an appropriate poem that can be used for this assessment.)</p>	

Question Groups

What are possible **reasons** why the author wrote this poem?

- Are they trying to convey a thought or idea?
- Are they trying to tell a story?
- Are they trying to express feelings or mood?
- Are they trying to describe a scene?
- Are they trying to reveal a character?

Questions about **mood**:

- Has the author chosen to make this a serious poem, somber, tragic, or a funny one, a sarcastic one or an irreverent one?
- What is the overall atmosphere of the poem?

Questions about **theme** and **author's message**:

- What is the poem all about?
- Is the poem a story, an experience, a description of events, or a description of a place?
- What is the author generally trying to get across to the world, using their poem?
- What is the author telling the reader about the subject of the poem?

Questions about **figurative language**:

- How did the author help you see something ordinary differently?
- What senses did the author include in their poem?
- What do you think the author felt when he was writing the figurative verse?
- What emotions do you think the author was trying to evoke?
- What image(s) does the author paint for the reader his choice of words?
Sketch a drawing using the words of the poem.

Other questions:

- How is the poem structured?
- Why do you think the author placed the line breaks where they are?
- If the author used stanzas, what is common about the lines grouped together?
- Are there any words or images that strike out at you?
- What is your overall feeling about the poem?

Use the back of this page to draw an image you had as a result of the words in the poem.

Rubric for Poem Reflection

Criterion	Veteran	Apprentice	Novice	Basic	Score
Able to identify purpose of poem		Correctly identifies 2	Attempts to identify 1	No attempt to identify 0	
Able to analyze how author uses mood	Analysis is thoughtful and accurate 6	Analysis is accurate 5	Analysis is missing key components 4	Analysis is neither thoughtful nor accurate 0	
Able to analyze how author uses theme	Analysis is thoughtful and accurate 7	Analysis is accurate 6	Analysis is missing key components 5	Analysis is neither thoughtful nor accurate 0	
Reflects on author's message	Reflection is thoughtful and accurate 7	Reflection is accurate 6	Reflection is missing key components 5	Reflection is neither thoughtful nor accurate 0	
Appropriate examples related to figurative language	Example is thoughtful and appropriate 7	Example is appropriate. 6	Example is missing key components 5	No example are given 0	
Creates an image related to poem	Image clearly reflects poet's words and is detailed 4	Image reflects poet's words 3	Image reflects some of poet's words 2	Image does not reflect poet's words 0	
Total Score out of 33					
Multiply by 3.33					x 3.33
Final Score out of 100					