

## Unit 4- Poetry

The poetry work your children do this year will inspire in them an appreciation for the power of precise language and attention to detail. Also, it provides another genre in which students can express their knowledge, thoughts, and ideas, while honing their creative writing skills. Then too, the opportunity to write poetry draws on many of the same skills students have been developing all year in other writing genres. After all, poets plan, write with detail, revise, make reading-writing connections—the works! By writing poems, students can show off all they have learned. In this way, poetry can culminate all your child’s learning.

Above all, this unit aims to give young poets a channel for finding significance in the everyday details of their lives. One big goal of this unit is for young poets to write in deliberate ways that evoke powerful imagery and convey important messages. This work will merely reinforce thinking that was set into motion from the very first day. To help students write with this kind of intention, they will read aloud many poems. By the end of the year, second graders will be able to “Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song” (CCSS.RL.2.4). This reading standard is, of course, transferable to writing; students will study poems through these lenses in order to write their own poems, drawing on these same techniques. The application of these skills from one context to another—from reading to writing—helps to create more cognitively demanding work for students. Another big goal in this unit, then, is helping students transfer what they notice as they read poetry to their own writing.

Another big goal of the unit is helping children write with more meaning. Even as I teach your young poets to pay close attention to objects, to study comparisons, and to write about the ordinary in extraordinary ways, I will also want to be sure that they are writing about meaningful topics. Remind the second graders to bring their lives, their knowledge, and their rich ideas about their world to the poems they are writing, so that readers will be compelled to read them.