

Posy Poetry



Objective:

Students will sharpen their observation, listening and identification skills through a poetry exercise.

Grade Level: 2–6

Groupings: Pairs and small groups

Materials: Assortment of at least six different flowers in separate numbered vases; paper lunch bags; slips of paper.

Time Allotment: 20 minutes

Directions:

1. Place the vases of each type of flower in different locations throughout the room. Assign a number to each vase and place a paper lunch bag next to it along with several slips of paper. Write the corresponding vase number on a slip of paper and put this inside the bag.
2. Explain to the class that nature has long inspired artists in their work. Read aloud some poetry about different flowers or plants. Try to choose poems that don't mention the plant by name, or if possible, leave its name out while reading. Ask the students to guess the identity of the plant or flower.
3. Explain to the class that they will visit each of the flowers around the room in pairs and record their first impressions of the flower. Ask each pair to write a single word or short phrase on a slip of paper and place it in the adjacent paper bag. Encourage them to record whatever stands out about that flower — perhaps something it reminds them of or its color, shape, or smell.



4. When everyone has had a chance to visit and write about each flower, divide the students into small working groups. Give each group a bag. Explain that they will be using the words and phrases inside the bag to create a poem about their flower. From their writing, the rest of the class must guess which flower they are describing. Explain that inside each bag, there is a slip of paper with a number on it that corresponds to the numbers on the vases and identifies their

Extensions:

a. *Do a similar activity with different insects, various soil samples, or local birds. Instead of poetry, have the students write riddles. As a class, try to solve the riddles.*

b. *Have the students create drawings or paintings based on their impressions of the different flowers. Then make an anthology, including their art work and poems.*

Directions: (continued)

flower. Ask them to keep its identity a secret. Explain they must use all the words in the bag to write their poem, adding words if necessary. Modify any rules depending on your group and purpose.

5. Place all of the flowers in a central location. Explain that every group will first read their poem to the class. Then, after a second reading, the class can match up each poem to a flower.