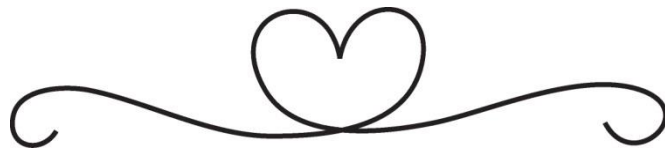# Poetry Unit

## Teacher notes:

I created this unit because I wanted a poetry unit that would be a fun and exciting learning experience for students, but also teacher and student friendly. There are a total of 19 poem templates that can be covered in a 1-3 week time frame, depending on how long you want to spend on each type of poem. I usually pick one poem a day to have my first graders learn and write. At the end of our poetry unit the students color one of the cover pages. Then, I staple all the poems they have written throughout the weeks into their own poetry journal booklet!
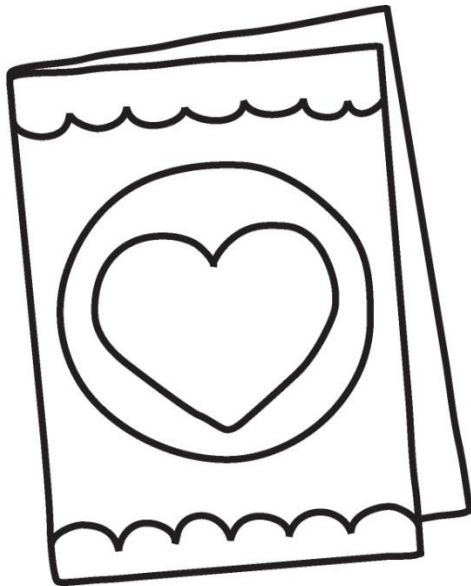
# My Poetry Journal

By:

_____

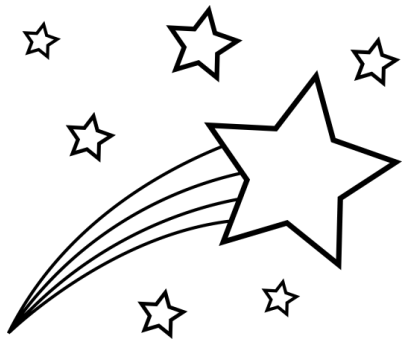# MY POETRY JOURNAL

BY:

⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭⬭
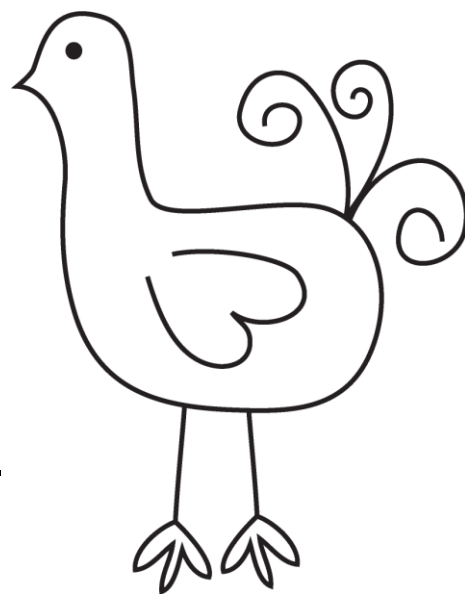
# My Poetry Journal

By:

_____

# I Wish... Poem

An I Wish... Poem is a fun poem listing the poet's wishes. These wishes can be either silly or serious.

## EXAMPLE:

### I Wish...

I wish I was Snow White.

I wish I had seven dwarves.

I wish I lived in a big castle.

I wish Cinderella was my friend.

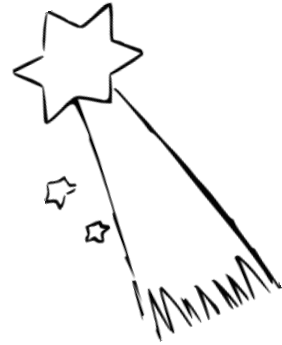And finally I wish I had a magical wand!

# I Wish... Poem

Star light, star bright,
First star I see tonight.
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have the wish I wish tonight.

I wish _____

I wish _____

I wish _____
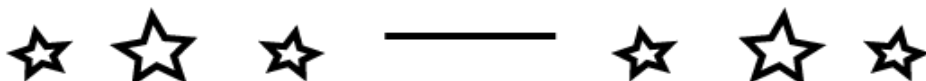
I wish _____

And finally I wish _____

# I Like... Poem

An I Like... Poem is a silly poem that describes a particular topic using adjectives.

## example:

### I Like...

I like dogs.
Any kind of dogs.
Happy dogs, silly dogs, nice dogs.
Big dogs, short dogs.
A dog in a bed.
A dog on the rug.
A dog by a pool.
Especially my naughty dog.
But last of all, most of all,
I like adorable dogs.

# I Like... Poem

## Teacher Note:

I introduce I Like... Poems by reading the book <u>I Like Bugs</u>, by Margaret Wise Brown.  Using the poem outline, have your students write their own poem like Margaret Wise Brown about an object of their choice.

# I Like... Poem

I like _____.

Any kind of _____.

Happy _____, silly _____, nice _____.

Big _____, short _____.

A _____ in a _____.

A _____ on the _____.

A _____ by a _____.
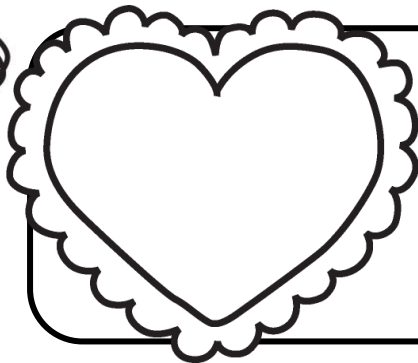
Especially _____.

But last of all, most of all,

I like _____.

# Color Poem

A Color Poem describes a color using the 5 senses.

## Example:

Blue

Blue looks like the sky up above.
Blue sounds like the ocean waves crashing against the beach.
Blue smells like the blueberry muffins baking in the oven.
Blue tastes like the minty breeze taste of my gum.
Blue feels like the cool water.

# Color Poem

## Teacher Notes

I introduce **Color Poems** by reading the book, <u>Color Me a Rhyme</u> by **Jane Yolen**. Using the poem outline, have your students pick one color of their choice. Then imagine what something might taste, smell, look, sound, or feel like that is that particular color.

# Color Poem

_____

_____ looks like _____

_____ sounds like _____

_____ smells like _____

_____ tastes like _____
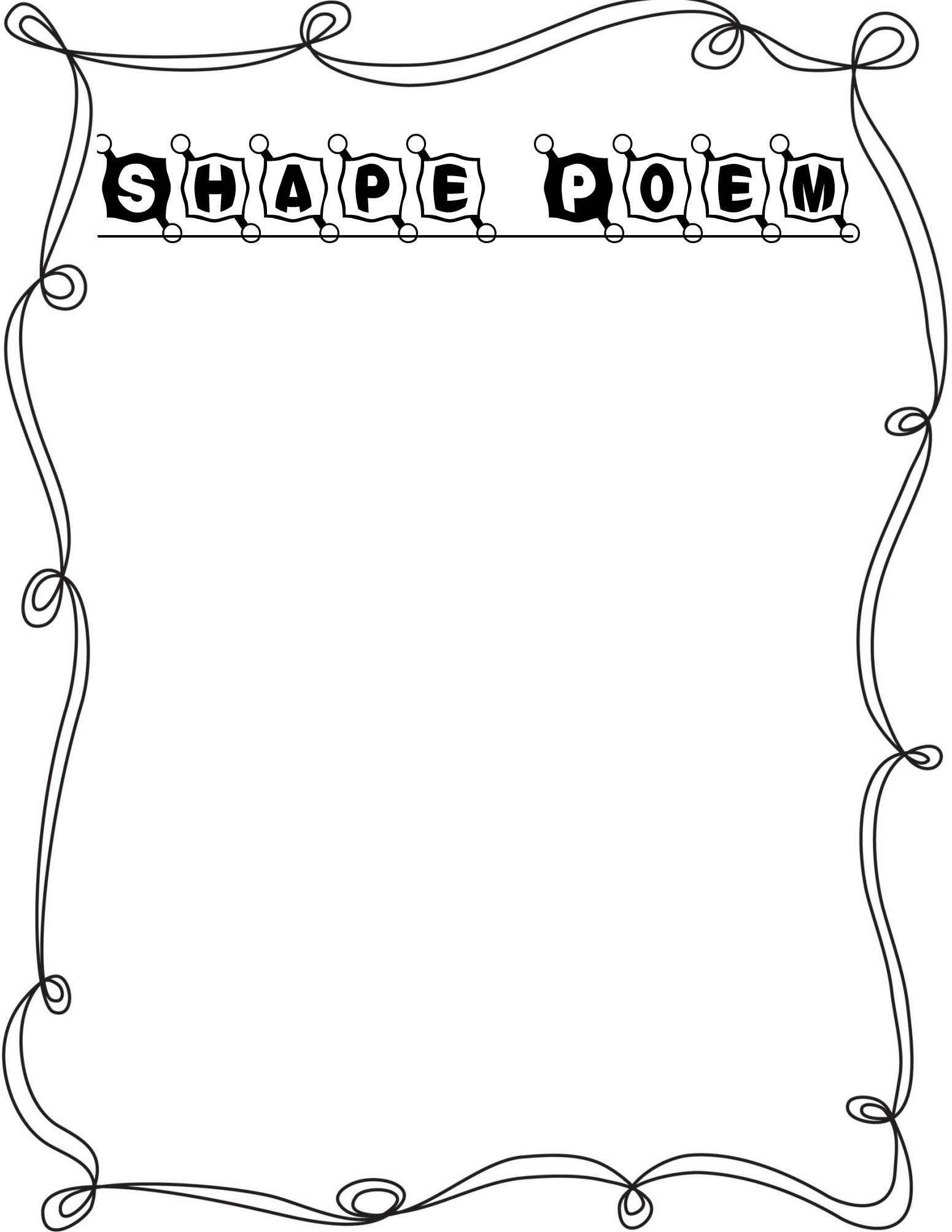
_____ feels like _____

# SHAPE POEM

A Shape Poem is a poem that describes an object, and is shaped like the object it describes.

## EXAMPLE:

A Raindrop
A little, wet drop of water
Splashing and crashing
Everyone runs for cover

# SHAPE POEM

# Important Poem

An **Important Poem** consists of important details about a particular topic.  It ends with the most important detail about that topic.

## Example:

Important Poem

The important thing about me
is I am a mother.
I am patient,
and I am kind,
and I care.
But the most important thing
about me is I love my children
with all my heart.

# Important Poem

## Teacher Note:

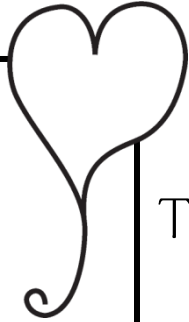I introduce Important Poems by reading aloud, <u>The Important Book</u> by Margaret Wise Brown. Using the poem outline, have your students write what's important about them. Then, have them draw a picture of themselves in the blank space.

# Important Poem

The important thing about me

is _____

_____.

I am _____,

and I am _____,

and I _____,

But the most important thing

about me is _____

_____.

# -ING POEM

An -ing Poem is a poem that describes a topic using verbs ending with –ing.

## EXAMPLES:

Football
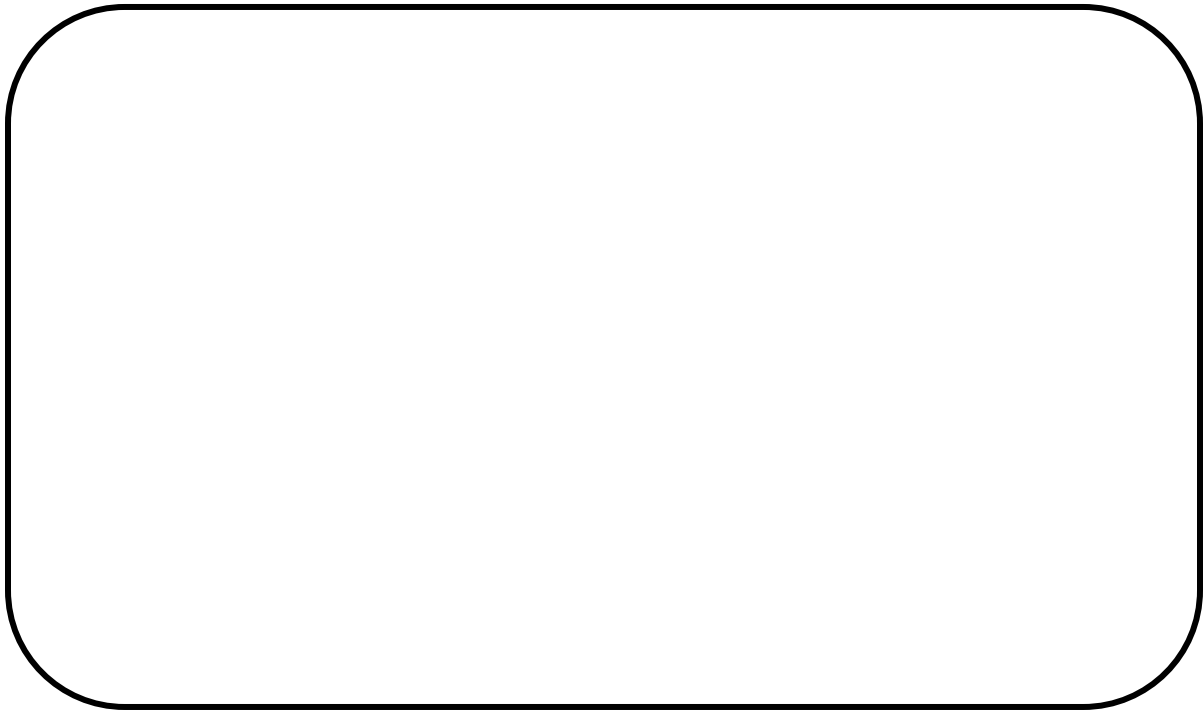
Throwing
Kicking
Catching
Scoring

Mom

Hugging
Kissing
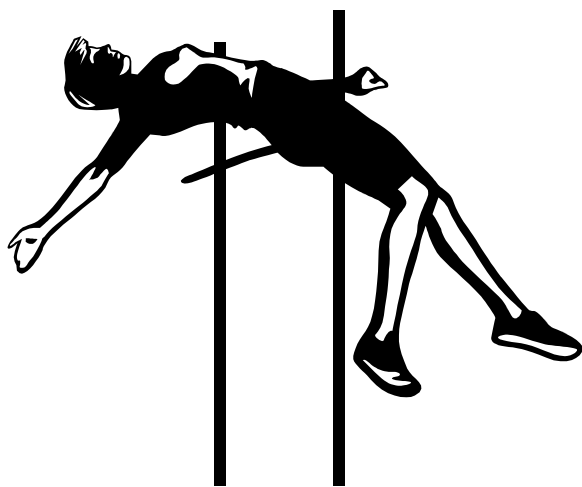Caring
Loving

# -ING POEM

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Acrostic Poem

An **Acrostic Poem** uses the letters in a topic word to begin each of the lines of the poem. All lines should be connected to the topic.

Example:

J umps high

O over the high jump bar

H ighest jumper on the team

N ever has a bad attitude

N ice to everyone

Y es! He's a great kid!

# Acrostic

# Adjective Poem

In an **Adjective Poem** a topic is described using adjectives. An adjective poem can be really silly!

## Example:

1st

### First Graders

Crazy first graders,

Squirmy and talkative first graders,

Those are just a few.

Smart first graders,

Little first graders,

Respectful first graders, too.

Beautiful and hansom first graders,

Don't forget talented first graders,

Last of all, best of all,

I like educated first graders!

# Adjective Poem

_____ Graders

_____ \_\_\_ graders,

_____ and _____ \_\_\_ graders,

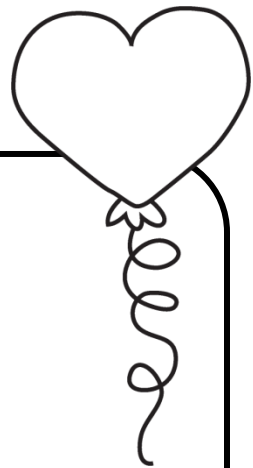Those are just a few.

_____ \_\_\_ graders,

_____ \_\_\_ graders,

_____ \_\_\_ graders, too.

_____ and _____ \_\_\_ graders,

Don't forget _____ \_\_\_ graders,

Last of all, best of all,

I like _____ \_\_\_ graders!

# W-W-W-W-W

# POEM

Who, what, when, where, why poems should be five lines long. The poem tells a story or gives a strong picture of someone or something. Each line should answer one of the "w" questions. When you read the poem it should sound like two sentences put together.
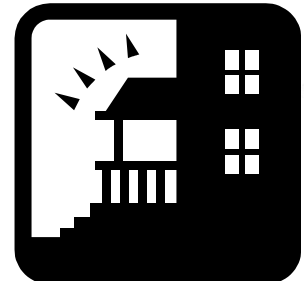
## EXAMPLE:

WHO: The old man
WHAT: sat alone
WHEN: on a sunny summer afternoon
WHERE: on his front porch.
WHY: He was enjoying the breeze and drinking iced tea.

# W-W-W-W-W

# POEM

WHO: _____

WHAT: _____

WHEN: _____

WHERE: _____

WHY: _____

# I Am Poem

An I Am Poem is composed of three stanzas written about you and your feelings.

**Example:**

I am a hard working teacher
I wonder how my students will do this year
I hear their brains clicking
I see the light in their eyes
I want them to succeed
I am a hard working teacher

I pretend I am always in control
I feel like I'm swimming in quicksand sometimes
I touch the hearts and minds of others
I worry that I am not good enough
I cry when I am overwhelmed
I am a hard working teacher

I understand I cannot do everything
I say I still need to try
I dream of being the best teacher I can be
I try to make my class interesting
I hope I never give up
I am a hard working teacher

# I Am Poem

I am _____
I wonder _____
I hear _____
I see _____
I want _____
I am _____

I pretend _____
I feel _____
I touch _____
I worry _____
I cry _____
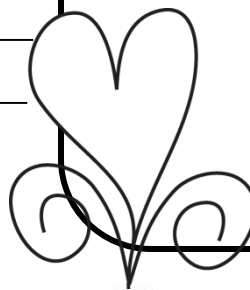I am _____

I understand _____
I say _____
I dream _____
I try _____
I hope _____
I am _____

# If It Weren't For You

An If It Weren't For You Poem is written about someone special in your life and what they have done for you. The poem can be serious or funny.

## Example:

If It Weren't For You

If it weren't for you little sister,
I would never have to share the T.V..
If it weren't for you little sister,
I could read without being disturbed.
It if weren't for you little sister,
I could go to the movies with my friends.
If it weren't for you little sister,
All my toys would be in one place.
But if it weren't for you little sister,
I wouldn't have anyone to talk to at night.

# If It Weren't For You

If it weren't for you _____

_____

If it weren't for you _____

_____

If it weren't for you _____

_____

If it weren't for you _____

_____

But if it weren't for you _____

_____

# Word Picture Poem.

Carefully look at an object of your choice
and describe it and tell about its function,
without using the name of the object. The
last line of the poem should have a sound
the object can make.

# Example:
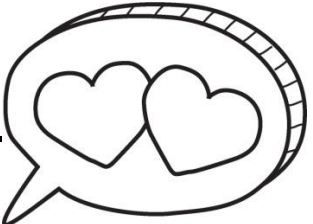
Long, sharp and made of metal
They cut paper and cardboard;
My fingers fit into two round circles;
They open and close, open and close;
Snip, snap! Snip, snap!

Scissors
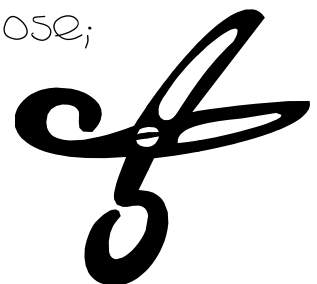
# Word Picture Poem.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# I'M SO SMART POEM

An **I'm So Smart Poem** is a poem that describes various things that you know how to do.

## EXAMPLE:

I'm So Smart

I'm so smart I can read chapter books.

I'm so smart I can count to 1000 without stopping.

I'm so smart I can read to my baby brother.

I'm so smart I can count the money in my piggy bank.

I'm so smart I can ride a bike without training wheels.

And I'm so smart I can write poems like this!

# I'M SO SMART

# POEM

I'm so smart I can _____

I'm so smart I can _____

I'm so smart I can _____

I'm so smart I can _____

I'm so smart I can _____

And I'm so smart I can _____

# Haiku Poem

A **Haiku** is a Japanese form of poetry with no rhyme. In it, the author describes an object or scene in exactly seventeen syllables. Haiku poems have three lines, each with a specific number of syllables. Line one has five syllables, line two has seven, and line three has five syllables.

## Example:

Waking up to chirps
Birds singing in the morning
Beautiful bird songs

# Haiku Poem

## Teacher Note:

I introduce Haiku Poems by reading the book, Dogku by Andrew Clements. The entire book is written in Haiku. As I read the book aloud I have the students clap out the syllables on each page to be sure every page has the right syllable count. Then, have the students follow the Haiku outline to write about any topic they would like.

# Haiku Poem

_____

(5 Syllables)

_____

(7 Syllables)

_____

(5 Syllables)
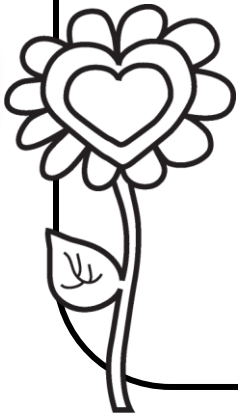
# Cinquain Poem

A **Cinquain Poem** is a special kind of five-line poem that follows the following format:

Line 1: One Word – A noun

Line 2: Two words describing the noun - Adjectives

Line 3: Three words which tell what the noun does - Verbs

Line 4: Four words expressing feeling

Line 5: A synonym for the noun

# Examples:

Motorcycle
Noisy, Fast
Racing, Climbing, Crashing,
Fun on two wheels
Dirt Bike

Linda
Cheerful, Honest
Singing, Reading, Biking,
Loyal to her friends
Dreamer

# CINQUAIN POEM

_____

(Noun)

_____    _____

(Adjective)                 (Adjective)

_____    _____    _____

(Verb)          (Verb)          (Verb)

_____

(A four-word phrase)

_____

(Noun)

# Alphabet Alliteration Poem

An **Alphabet Alliteration Poem** can be an imaginative and silly poem.  In alliteration, each important word in the line begins with the same letter.  For each letter in the alphabet write three words that follow the following pattern:

<u>First Word</u>: An adjective - that will describe the noun

<u>Second Word</u>: A noun — the subject of your sentence

<u>Third Word</u>: A verb — showing the action of the noun

## Example:

A    wesome alligators ache

B    ig bats bite

C    hilly cats crawl

D    itzy dogs dig

# Alphabet Alliteration
## Poem

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

I _____

J _____

K _____

L _____

M _____

N _____

O _____

P _____

Q _____

R _____

S _____

T _____

U _____

V _____

W _____

X _____

Y _____

Z _____

# 2-Worder Poem

In a **2-Worder Poem** each line of the poem consists of only two words. The two words describe the topic of the poem.

## EXAMPLE:

### BATS
Are nocturnal
Fly fast
Use echolocation
Eat fruit
Sleeps upside down
Small mammal

# 2-WORDER POEM

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Holiday Poem

A Holiday Poem uses words or phrases that go with that holiday. The words and phrases describe that holiday using the 5-Senses. Use the following format to write a poem about your favorite holiday.

Line 1: Name of your chosen holiday
Line 2: Something you SEE during the holiday
Line 3: Something you HEAR during the holiday
Line 4: Something you SMELL during the holiday
Line 5: Something you TASTE during the holiday
Line 6: Something you FEEL during the holiday
Line 7: Repeat holiday name

## Example:

Halloween
Goblins and ghosts out on the streets
"Trick or Treat" they tell their neighbor
Smells of candy fills the air
Yummy chocolate I love to eat
Oooooohhhhh....my tummy aches!
Halloween

# Holiday Poem

_____

(Name of chosen holiday)

_____

(Something you SEE during the holiday)

_____

(Something you HEAR during the holiday)

_____

(Something you SMELL during the holiday)

_____

(Something you TASTE during the holiday)

_____

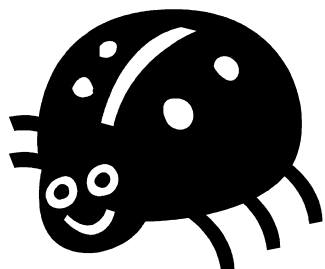(Something you FEEL during the holiday)

_____

(Repeat holiday name)

# IF I WERE...
## POEM

An **If I Were Poem** is written as if you were an animal, book character, person, cartoon, villain, hero, etc. During the poem you list things you would like to do if you were this person.

## EXAMPLE:

If I Were a Ladybug

If I were a ladybug,
I would fly to the top of my house.
If I were a ladybug,
I would land on a tree top.
If I were a ladybug,
I would paint myself with purple spots.

# IF I WERE...
# POEM

If I were a _____

I would _____

If I were a _____

I would _____

If I were a _____

I would _____

# Listening to Poetry

Every day during my poetry unit I read multiple types of poems to my students. I read serious poems, love poems, silly poems, funny poems, etc. Instead of having tons of poetry books and trying to find the right poem to read - I have complied the poems I like for my students to hear on different types of paper and put them all together.

This is a picture of what my complied poems look like:

A **Poetry Battle** is a fun activity to have your students participate in while listening to many different types of poems throughout the weeks.



As a class fill in the grid as you read the poems to the students. The students vote on which poems they liked the best. Finally, by the end of your poetry unit you should have a poem that is the class's all-time favorite! (Year after year **Brod Bagert**'s poem <u>Booger Love</u> is usually my class's number one favorite poem!)

You can also have your students fill out the Poetry Ranking worksheet about the poems you read aloud to them or for poems they read independently. This is a great literacy center during your poetry unit!
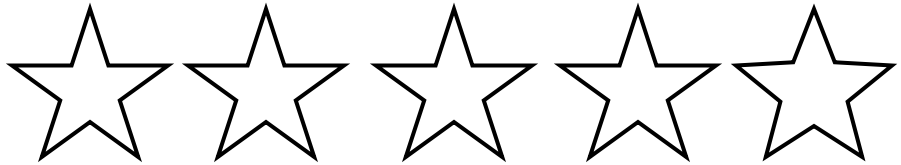
Name: _____

# Ranking Poetry

Poem Title: _____

Author: _____

I give this poem: ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
(Color in the stars to rate)

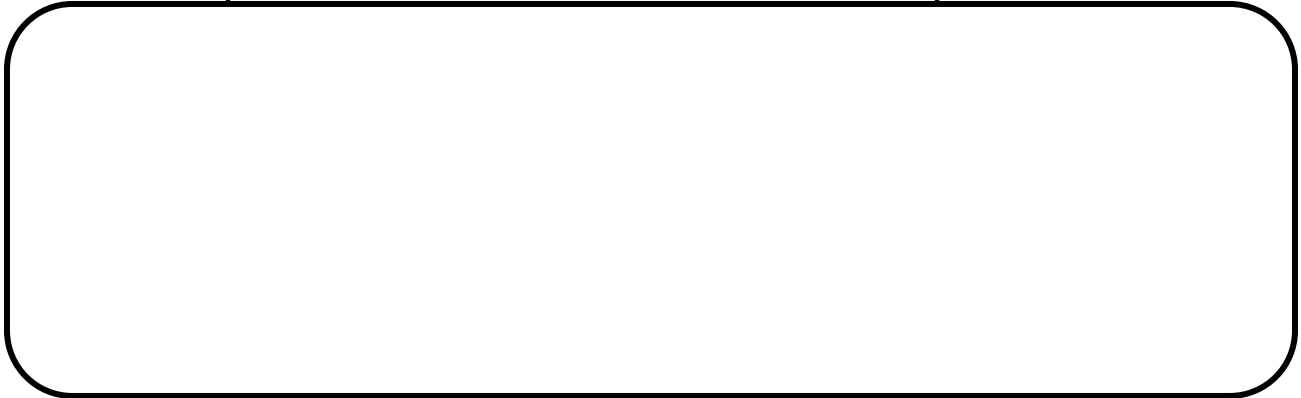Does this poem rhyme? (Circle One)     Yes          No

If so, find two rhyming words: _____

_____

Does this poem have onomatopoeias? (Circle One)   Yes    No

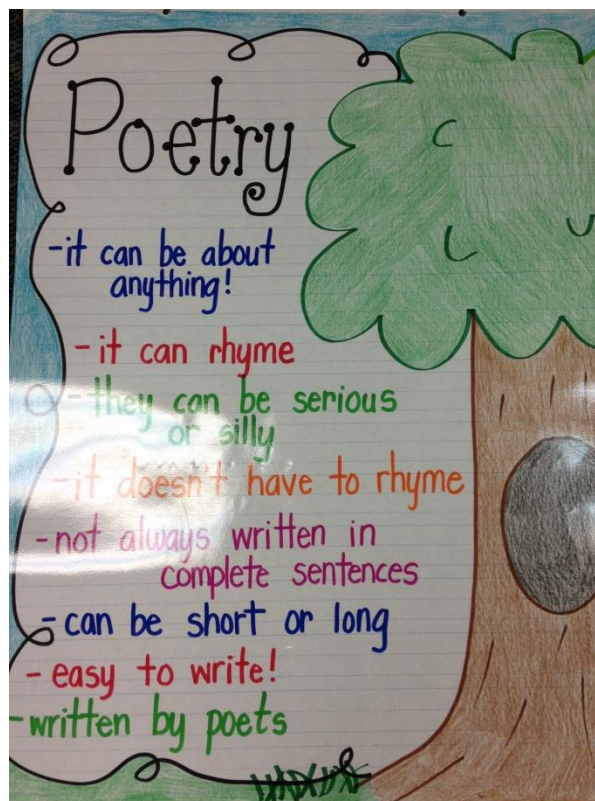If so, list some of them: _____

Draw a picture of what you think this poem is about.

# POETRY

# ANCHOR CHART

I use this anchor chart the first day I introduce what poetry is to my students.



Poetry
- it can be about anything!
- it can rhyme
- they can be serious or silly
- it doesn't have to rhyme
- not always written in complete sentences
- can be short or long
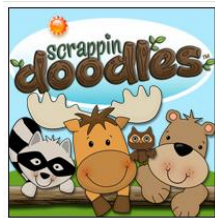- easy to write!
- written by poets

# THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for your purchase! I truly appreciate your business and will be happy to respond to any questions, concerns, or comments you have regarding this activity.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Check out these wonderful sites for great graphics!

www.scrappindoodles.com  and

http://the3amteacher.blogspot.com/