

How to Interpret a Poem: Gradually Release Responsibility as Students Develop Core Competence

This is a comprehensive plan so that students analyze a poem comprehensively after they learn elements of poetry.

BIG Idea: Poets use words to communicate. Readers analyze a poem to figure out the message.

Big Questions: How do poets communicate their ideas? How do readers interpret a poem?

Common Core Anchor Standards: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. 2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. 5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger parts of the text (e.g., a section, a chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole. (Insert standards specific to your grade level.)

<i>Monday</i> Preview Model Interest	<i>Tuesday</i> Model and GUIDE	<i>Wednesday</i> GUIDE and go farther	<i>Thursday</i> ASSESS and Clarify	<i>Friday</i> Fix Go Deeper Finish well
<p>I DO: Read first stanza of poem aloud. Thinks out loud—how do you infer meaning of a word from context? What is figurative language?</p> <p>WE DO: Guides students to notice other techniques used. Image, symbol, alliteration, rhyme.</p> <p>YOU DO Make symbol-word picture chart—word and symbol used in poem.</p> <p>What is figurative language? Give one example from the poem.</p> <p>Check for Understanding: Start poet's glossary: Image Symbol Infer Context Alliteration Onomatopoeia Narrator Rhyme Stanza</p>	<p>I DO: Think out loud—how do I infer the theme of a poem—how does the writer use words and images to communicate it?</p> <p>WE DO: Read rest of poem and think out loud with the students: What is the theme of the poem? How does the poet express it with techniques (images, tone, mood, repetition, other elements)</p> <p>YOU DO: Re-read poem and list evidence for the theme. <i>Draw a picture</i> of what poet "says" in poem to communicate the theme. Share/compare.</p> <p>Check for understanding: continue poet's glossary: Theme Interpret Repetition Mood Tone Rhythm, Meter Title</p>	<p>I DO: List steps to interpret a poem—read it once to figure out topic; read it again to infer theme; read it 3rd time to identify techniques used to communicate theme.</p> <p>WE DO: Analyze different poem, steps 1, 2, 3.</p> <p>YOU DO: Picture a poem--show the poet's idea. Make a "key" to your picture-- Theme Images</p> <p>Check for Understanding: Write your own directions: how to interpret a poem.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT S: Independently read another poem. Identify theme. List ways the writer has communicated it.</p> <p>T: Check for Understanding—circulate and guide individuals needing assistance.</p> <p>Think Out Loud with Class or group: clarify any points students did not "get".</p> <p>Students needing support: Pair and compare lists, add more evidence of ways the poet communicates the theme.</p> <p>Advanced Students: Write about poem—letter to the poet or extended response—how did this poet create a mood or tone?</p>	<p>Students needing support: Read a new poem, use poem reader (graphic organizer) to show how the parts communicate a theme.</p> <p>Advanced Students: Write your poetry guide-- to reading a poem—use a different poem—could be a poem you write!</p> <p>Class Synthesis: What have we learned about interpreting poems? (Can be a guide to interpreting a poem.)</p>