

# The Power of Poems

## Writing Activities for the Classroom:

- Wordstorm to increase students' vocabulary
- Display & use books of poetry and share poems everyday, not just in language arts
  - Read picture books and poetry aloud each day, regardless of age level
  - invite grandparents to tell ethnic tales, teach old nursery rhymes in different languages
  - Play with tongue twisters, write alliteration; make a school alphabet book
  - Make a picture file with funny and interesting pictures clipped from magazine ads. Pass pictures around for oral storytelling; write poems and stories based on pictures
  - Make a newspaper clippings file of interesting headlines and articles. Write stories and poems based on these clippings
  - Write 'Inside Me' poems; poems based on classical music; put poems to a tune and sing or rap; write 'found poems' finding the words for your poem inside a piece of prose.
- Write metaphor poetry and non-rhyming poetry
- Write shaped poetry, perform poems such as The Cremation of Sam McGee
  - Get a rhyming dictionary for your classroom
- Have a jar full of poems in your room, hold a 'poetry jam' regularly. Invite students to add their favorite poems to the jar.
  - Read a poem d day over the school's intercom system

## Celebrate

### **students' writing by publishing in the classroom and beyond:**

- Create a Poet Tree with brown paper trunk and leaf shaped poems
- Create classroom books of poetry by printing students' poems and laminating a cover. Design book to include a title page, dedication page, page about the author, ISBN number and 'rave reviews' on the back
  - Have older students read their writing to younger grades
- Place a copy of your classroom book of poems in the Library for others to read
- Publish students' writing on your school's web page by adding a button called 'Young Authors'
- Encourage your students to submit their writing to KidsWrite Magazine:

[www.kalwriters.com/kidswwwrite](http://www.kalwriters.com/kidswwwrite)

or to magazines such as:

- \* CREATIVE KIDS, PO Box 8813,  
Waco, TX 76714-8813
- \* STONE SOUP, PO Box 83,  
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
- \* MERLYN'S PEN, PO Box 1058,  
East Greenwich, RI 02818
- \* WORD DANCE, PO Box 10804,  
Wilmington, DE 19850-0804.

For more ideas, check out 'What Other Schools Have Done'  
on my website: [www.margrietruijers.com](http://www.margrietruijers.com)