

# Grade 7 English Language Arts

Week of January 18 – January 22

## Lesson 1: Poetry Introduction

### Preview

Have you ever watched an artist paint a picture? By using just a few colours, an artist can create a dramatic landscape, a vivid still life, or a beautiful portrait. That's what poets do with words. By choosing exactly the right words, rhythms, and poetic styles, poets write poems filled with imagery and emotion.

Poetry is a special form of communication which touches the heart and the soul!

### Workshop Overview:

1. Read and analyze poems and songs.
2. Learn about poetic devices.
3. Write 3 of your own poems and/or song lyrics on the theme of identity.
4. Create a PowerPoint to present your poems.
5. Deliver a dramatic reading of one of your created pieces.

### Writer's Workshop: Poetry

What do you think when you hear the word poetry? Do you think of something that rhymes and has a certain beat, or rhythm? Do you think of short pieces of writing that are sometimes hard to understand? Not all poems rhyme, but many do. Not all poems are short, but many of them are. Not all poems are hard to understand, though some of them can be.

Let's begin by looking at some videos of spoken poetry.



*Caged Bird* by Maya Angelou: <https://youtu.be/-pAxGbTwFm4>



Daniel Radcliffe Raps *Alphabet Aerobics* by Blackalicious: <https://youtu.be/aKdV5FvXLuI>

"I don't know what to write about!" This is often what teachers hear from students. In the following workshop, you will be asked to write some of your own poetry around the theme of identity, that is all about you. So first brainstorm some ideas!

Now complete the following activity.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 4.1 Inspirations for Poetry

### List:

A favorite memory :

A story you like to tell people :

An event in your life when you were very sad:

An event in your life when you were overjoyed:

An event in your life when you were terrified:

A time you had a conflict with someone you cared about:

Something in your life you are proud of:

An important journey or trip you took:

An experience where you did something new for the first time:

An important object from your childhood:

A time the weather scared or inspired you:

A great joy in your life:

A vacation story:

The greatest risk you have taken:

A wish that came true:

A magical place or event:

from <http://poetry.rcah.msu.edu/assets/lesson-plans-for-conference.pdf>