

Random Acts of Poetry Day

The first Wednesday in October is Random Acts of Poetry Day. Similar to the [Kindness Rock Project](#), this day challenges us to leave poetry where it can be found and enjoyed by others. Poetry is often a challenge for students of all ages. We can help students succeed by combining the study of poetry with the **Communicate** trait! Students will practice different poetic styles and choose one to publish and share in their communities.

Note: Preview literature and Internet websites for appropriate content to match your district guidelines.

Getting Started



Critical Thinking Trait Focus—Communicate: I use clear language to express my ideas and share information. *Note: Other traits such as **Create** and **Reflect** may be used to complete this activity.*

Learning Standards Focus—visual patterns and structures in a variety of poems, compose literary texts, how authors communicate meaning through text, writing process.

Vocabulary—rhyme, rhythm, stanza, clarity, audience, poetry, voice

Instruction

Activity Preparations:

1. Make copies or prepare to project the **Think It Out!** page.
2. Provide students with examples of published poems or anthologies to browse

Activity Directions:

1. Review the **Communicate** critical thinking trait with students. Explain that they will be using this trait to learn more about using poetry to **Communicate** their thoughts and ideas.
2. Choose a short title or excerpt to read aloud from the Literature Suggestions list or a title of your choice that includes poetic writing or the theme of communication..
3. Prompt students with thought-provoking questions in response to the literature. Examples include:
 - a. What can you infer ___?
 - b. How would you illustrate ___?
 - c. Use your own words to retell ___.
 - d. What did the author mean by ___?
4. Brainstorm potential topics for poems as a group.
5. Invite students to practice in small groups, pairs, or on their own. Guide students as they practice different poetic styles on their Think It Out! page, paying particular attention to the message being communicated to their audience.
6. Guide students as they assist peers with revisions, editing, and selecting a poem to publish.
7. Invite students to publish their poetry on the page provided and complete the home letter.

Note: Remind students of the importance of asking for help from an adult to share their published work

Reflect

After students have used the **Communicate** trait to learn more about poetry, facilitate a reflective discussion about their thinking and learning. Guide students as they focus on how the **Communicate** critical thinking trait helped them work through the activity. Emphasize the importance of identifying ways to **Communicate** so the message is clear. Ask students to consider the thoughts of those who might find and read their poetic works.

Literature Suggestions

Poetry Anthologies: *Eric Carle's Animals Animals* by Eric Carle, *One Leaf Rides the Wind* by Celeste Mannis, *The Llama Who Had No Pajama* by Mary Ann Hoberman, *Spi-Ku: A Clutter of Short Verse on Eight Legs* by Leslie Bulion, *Science Verse* by Jon Scieszka, *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices* by Paul Fleischman

Books About Communication: *Saying What You Mean* by Joy Berry, *My Mouth is a Volcano!* by Julia Cook, *Where Are You, Blue?* by Sonali Fry, *Drawn Together* by Minh Le

Think It Out!

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry. When you write a haiku, you count syllables in each line. Haikus are usually related to nature and don't rhyme.

*Fall brings pumpkin smiles,
Handfuls of candy corn joy
And touchdown cheering.*

Your Turn!

5 syllables _____

7 syllables _____

5 syllables _____

In **Calligram** or **Shape Poetry**, the shape and layout of the letters and words on the paper reveal the poem's meaning.



Your Turn!

A **Kenning** is from Old Norse verse. They are poetic compounds used to describe a single noun. Try to guess this one.

*Candle Eater
Toothy Smiler
Round Bottomed
Porch Dweller
Trick or Treater
What Am I?*

Your Turn!

In **Acrostic Poems**, the first letter of each line is used to spell the message.

*Festive colored leaves
All sleeping in raked beds
Lazily swaying in the breeze, more join
Leaving the work never done*

Your Turn!

Poem Title

First Name

Age

Date

I hope this poem made you smile.
You can keep it in your file,
Or you can choose to leave it be.
Others may need a smile from me.

HAPPY **RANDOM ACTS of**
POETRY!
POETRY