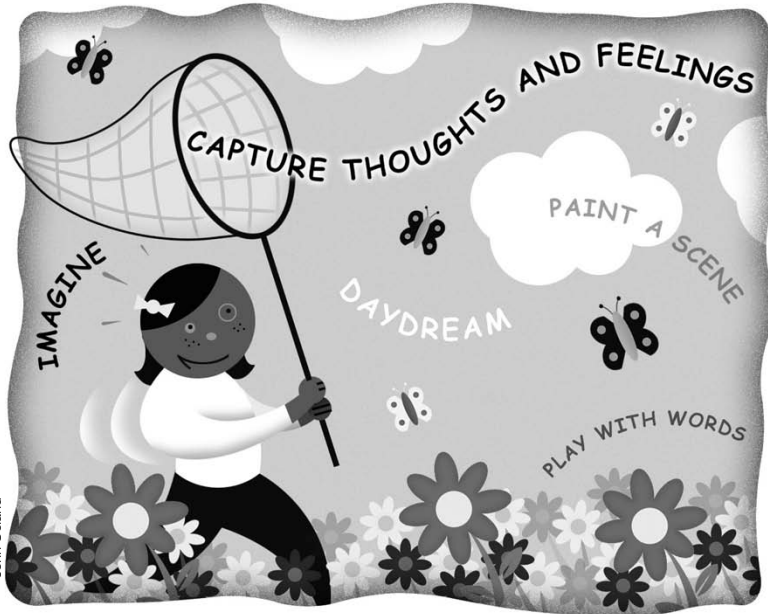


# Express Yourself!

## ▶ POETRY

Poetry helps students understand language structure and conventions, and encourages them to explore figurative language and express their feelings. It's all about playing with words.



### introduce the genre

**Poetry** is a popular and age-old form of storytelling that captures events, people, places, thoughts, and feelings through visual imagery, rhymes, and sounds. Recite poetry to your students, and encourage them to share their own poems aloud. Hearing other poets' work will give students a feeling for the rhythm of poetry. Some poems rhyme (and their rhyming scheme can be mapped using letters). Free verse doesn't rhyme but it is still rhythmic. Poets often select words because of the way they sound and the images they suggest.

"Poems begin in delight and end in wisdom."

—Robert Frost (1874–1963), *American poet*

### spark creativity: story starters

Find samples of **haiku**, limericks, and how to chart the **rhyme scheme** of a poem, plus **links to poetry sites** online.

**Paint a Poem.** Poets paint pictures with words. Look through magazines for words and phrases that you like, cut them out, and glue them onto paper to make a collage. Arrange the words any way you like; the poem doesn't have to make sense.

ants ate  
ceramic  
socks  
late

**Write an Acrostic Poem.** In an acrostic poem, the first letters of each line of the poem spell a word vertically. Write an acrostic poem about something you enjoy.

MELODIES LIFT ME  
UP TO THE SKY  
SOARING  
I AM HAPPY  
CAREFREE

### Get Hooked on Haikus.

Haikus have a total of 17 syllables and are divided into three lines. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. The third line has five syllables. Write a haiku about something in nature.

#### The Mountain

Towering mountain  
Stretches over the small town  
Sleeping so gently

### WRITING TIP: Master Metaphor

Poems often use metaphors and similes. A metaphor takes a word or phrase that usually designates one thing and uses it to designate another to make a comparison (for instance, "I am an ocean"). A simile compares unlikely things using the word *like* or *as*. Ask students to find examples of both.