

Word Games

POETRY HODGEPODGE

Supplies: envelopes, scissors, copies of a poem

Do you have a Shakespeare somewhere in your group? Here's a quick way to find out. Form small groups. Give each group an envelope containing a nonrhyming poem that has been cut into two-line pieces. Each envelope should have the same poem in it.

Ask the groups to reconstruct the poem as they think the author wrote it. Then have a person from each group read the revamped poem. The more variations, the better. After each group has shared its creative labor, read the true version of the poem.

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REFRIGERATOR POETRY

Supplies: envelopes, cut-up words (from magazines or typed)

Give each team of members an envelope with a good assortment of words. In the spirit of magnetic refrigerator poetry, they should work together to create sentences and even entire poems from their words. Everyone should get a chance to share their creations with the group.

THE EXCHANGE

This game has a surprise element. The guests are asked to be "at the ready" with pencils and paper. They are told they are to write down a list of capital cities of each state or anything similar. They have a time limit of three minutes. When they are poised and ready they are told to put the pencil in the other hand. Right-handers becomes left-hander, and vice versa. A prize is given to the guest with the most correct and most legible list.