

Poetry Reading and Memorization — Learning a Poem by Heart

Base Sheet

The child selects a short poem, practices reading it with expression, and works toward memorizing it. This activity develops oral fluency, expression, rhythm awareness, and the joy of beautiful language.

What You Need:

- 2-3 printed short poems at the child's level
- Drawing paper for illustration
- Colored pencils
- Poetry anthology (optional)

Steps:

1. 'Poetry is a special kind of writing that uses rhythm and beautiful words. Today we will learn a poem BY HEART!'
2. Present 2-3 short poems (4-8 lines each). Suggestions: a Shel Silverstein poem, a Jack Prelutsky poem, or a Christina Rossetti nature poem.
3. Read each poem aloud with expression. Let the child choose their favorite.
4. Read the chosen poem together, line by line.
5. Clap the rhythm. 'Do you hear the beat?'
6. Memorization technique: read line 1, say it without looking. Read lines 1-2, say both. Add line 3, and so on.
7. Practice 3-4 times with decreasing help.
8. Child recites the poem with expression.
9. Optional: illustrate the poem.

Work Space:

