



Poetry in the Garden

Goal

Students will strengthen their creative writing skills by writing poems that connect with the garden.

Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at www.growing-minds.org.

Activities

Scarecrow Sentence Strips

Materials

- Paper cut into long horizontal strips (one for each student)
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Copies of Scarecrow text

Read Scarecrow by Cynthia Rylant. Have each student select their favorite passage and write it on a strip of paper. Group students based on the passage that they chose and have them do a choral reading of their favorite passage in the order that the passages appear in the book. Then mix up the order of the passages and do it again.

Acrostic Poems

Materials

- Large sheets of paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Arrange students into small groups and hand out large sheets of paper with garden related words on them. Some examples of garden-related words include weeds, water, seed, garden, shovel, plants, harvest, roots, grow, sprout, pollination, germination, seedling, cotyledon, and chlorophyll. Have them select a word and guide them in creating an acrostic poem.

Shaped Poems

Materials

- Paper copies of poems for the class
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Plain paper



Books to Read

Scarecrow

by Cynthia Rylant

I Heard It from Alice Zucchini:

Poems about the Garden

By Juanita Havill

When Green Becomes

Tomatoes: Poems for All

Seasons

By Julie Fogliano



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Give the class a copy of a poem, written in paragraph form on one side and as a poem on the other. Talk about white space and how it is used to get the reader to read a poem in a certain way. Give them another poem written as a paragraph and have them rewrite it in a garden themed shape of their choice. Show examples of garden related shapes such as a fruits, vegetables, flowers, shovel, watering can, or garden insects. Examples of garden themed poetry can be found in [I Heard It from Alice Zucchini: Poems about the Garden](#) by Juanita Havill and [When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons](#) by Julie Fogliano.

Class Garden Poetry Sign

Materials

- Large paper
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Duct tape
- Yard stick
- Laminating supplies
- Optional- use a wooden sign and paint instead

Bring the class out to the garden to help brainstorm garden characteristics. Decide what style of poem you want to create. Using the garden characteristics, have the students all participate in creating a poem that will be displayed in the garden. After the poem is complete have it laminated and secure it in the garden with duct tape and a yard stick. Another option is to paint the poem on a wooden sign.