

California Federation of Chaparral Poets

Youth Poetry Lesson 9th-10th



How To:

Poetry Lesson

Step 1: Activate Prior Knowledge—What do your students already know about poetry?

Step 2: Explore Key Concept—What is poetry?

Step 3: Introduce the poet and provide historical/biographical information on him or her.

Step 4: Read the mentor poem aloud at least two times (teacher-read, student-read, pair reading, audio recording, etc.)

Step 5: Provide suggested prompts/questions to students.

Step 6: Give students age-appropriate prompt, and have them start writing!

Step 7: Have students conduct peer workshops.

Step 1:

What is Poetry?

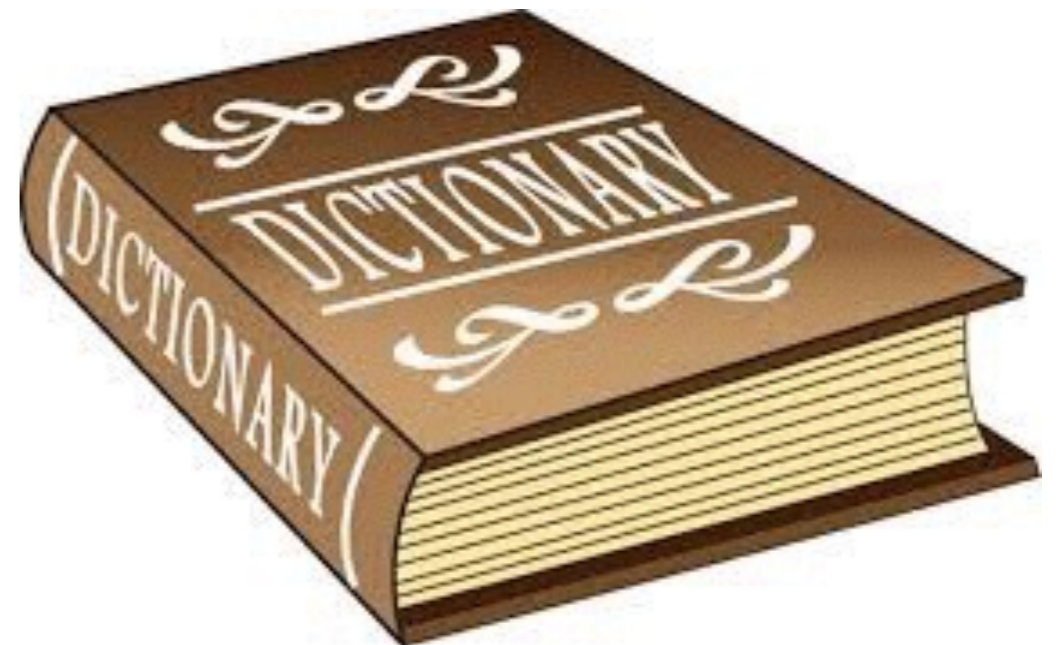
Write a journal in which you explore that you already know about poetry.



Step 2:

What is Poetry?

Poetry (noun) is literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm; poems collectively or as a genre of literature.



Step 3:



hello

my name is

Anne Sexton

Find five facts about the historical context and biographical information related to Anne Sexton.

Steps 4-6:

Grade 9 to Grade 10 (Ages 14-16) Poem & Prompt

THE ADDICT

Sleepmonger,
deathmonger,
with capsules in my palms each night,
eight at a time from sweet pharmaceutical bottles
I make arrangements for a pint-sized journey.
I'm the queen of this condition.
I'm an expert on making the trip
and now they say I'm an addict.
Now they ask why.
WHY!

Don't they know that I promised to die!
I'm keeping in practice.
I'm merely staying in shape.
The pills are a mother, but better,
every color and as good as sour balls.
I'm on a diet from death.

Yes, I admit
it has gotten to be a bit of a habit-
blows eight at a time, socked in the eye,
hauled away by the pink, the orange,
the green and the white goodnights.
I'm becoming something of a chemical
mixture.
that's it!

My supply
of tablets
has got to last for years and years.
I like them more than I like me.
It's a kind of marriage.
It's a kind of war where I plant bombs inside
of myself.



Yes
I try
to kill myself in small amounts,
an innocuous occupation.
Actually I'm hung up on it.
But remember I don't make too much noise.
And frankly no one has to lug me out
and I don't stand there in my winding sheet.
I'm a little buttercup in my yellow nightie
eating my eight loaves in a row
and in a certain order as in
the laying on of hands
or the black sacrament.

It's a ceremony
but like any other sport
it's full of rules.
It's like a musical tennis match where
my mouth keeps catching the ball.
Then I lie on; my altar
elevated by the eight chemical kisses.

What a lay me down this is
with two pink, two orange,
two green, two white goodnights.
Fee-fi-fo-fum-
Now I'm borrowed.
Now I'm numb.

Confessional Poem Prompt

After reading the poem "The Addict" by Anne Sexton, write a poem in which you imitate the way that Anne Sexton reveals this truth about herself—by revealing a truth about yourself.

Possible Prompts or Questions:

- What images does Sexton use to describe her addiction? How do these images contribute to the mood or message of the poem?
- What has Sexton revealed about herself in this poem?

—Anne Sexton

Step 7:

Peer Workshop (Small Group)

- ▶ Write questions you have about your own piece.
- ▶ Pass pieces to the left.
- ▶ Each member of the group will have 10 minutes to read through the piece and write **warm** and **cool** feedback before we pass to the left again.
- ▶ Once we go all the way around, the author will have time to read and respond to the responses.

WARM FEEDBACK

- I really like how you...
- You did a great job at...
- It was clear that you worked hard on...
- It was really interesting when you...

COOL FEEDBACK

- You may want to consider...
- I noticed that you...it may be more useful to...
- Have you thought about...
- It was unclear to me when you...

Poetry

Commandments

