

Poetry Starters

These simple prompted poetry writing techniques can assist reluctant writers to get something on to paper, the hardest step in writing.

“Make every word audition for the page.”

These techniques use the daily experience and relationship list **web**.

A. Provide the five prompts, slowly with time for thinking and writing:

1. a place in nature
2. weather
3. animal
4. plant
5. question or wrap-up

B. Build a poem interactively on the board, using student lines

C. Improve each line (audition the words) using what is already there as the base

D. Provide students time to improve their poem (audition the words)

E. Share improved poems

F. Discuss: when a poem doesn't work

February
Sitting on the curb, waiting for friends
Sunlight warm on my back, sky bright
Just like a cat, I'm content to be still
Fruit trees are blossoming across the street
Is it spring?

Second prompted poem:

1. “No one know I'm here...”
2. sky
3. trees
4. birds
5. another item from the web

Repeat the process above, but moving more quickly.

No one knows I'm here, lying on my back
Cloud shapes dancing
Shadow of an oak tree reaching towards me
Ravens flapping north to roost
Sun low in the sky
Guess I can go home

Have students copy their improved poem into a journal.