Poetry

In the classroom
Benefits to Using Poetry

1. A collection of poems for history, geography, science, and math is the first step to bringing a human element and a personal, often humorous touch to the topics you are studying. This helps students retain information and vocabulary — they now have vivid and/or humorous mental images that forge remembering connections.

2. Poems are short and cut to the heart of a topic. You can use a poem to connect students to your content topic in powerful and memorable ways. “Chromosome Poem,” for instance, is a catchy way to remember some of the traits chromosomes are responsible for determining. Then as students learn more about the topics, they link new information to their own lives and make connections to other texts and experiences.

3. Poetry helps students explore important issues in your content area, issues that extend beyond the classroom into their lives, communities, and the world. This volume contains poems on war, immigration, natural disasters, and technology that are sure to spark lively discussions that can enhance the content you’re teaching. It’s this stepping beyond the facts — making connections, analyzing information, and creating new understandings — that enables students to “get into” your subject and see its relevance to their lives and their world.

4. Using the poems to raise issues is a key teaching idea that asks students to think with the facts about a topic.

   • By Jack Lewis

1. Poetry is a short form that can be used to get across a multitude of information. It is short, concise, typically rhymes which helps with memory, and helps to make connections.
The basic use of poetry in the classroom is to teach different literary styles of poetry. These can help with rhythm and meter. As well as help students with low vocabulary express themselves and build reading skills.

This book explains the different types of poetic forms through visual representation, an example, a definition or explanation, and if you will also note in the upper left corner, he is giving a visual motion representation of the rhyme scheme. aabba
Janeczko also gives more detailed information about each type of poem in the back of the book. Also note the images (going back to the use of illustration) visually represents the poem such a the couplet is two lines so he drew two birds.
This is an example of a poem for a young child. Simple words and bright colors but reading rhyming words as a struggling reader helps to reinforce reading and pronunciation rules, such as the use of about and shout, night and bright.
Poems for Older Children 2-3 grade

Bubble Trouble by Mahy

LITTLE MABEL blew a bubble, and it caused a lot of trouble...

Such a lot of bubble trouble in a bubble-bubble way.

For it broke away from Mabel as it bobbed across the table.

where it bobbed over Baby, and it wafted him away.
But poetry is not just for teaching poetic form. As I said earlier, it is a concise way to demonstrate many topics such as literary concepts like: personification, metaphor, alliteration, and simile but in a fun or funny way.
Teaching Grammar

- Alphabest by Helaine Becker
- Comparatives and Superlatives

More poetry books used to illustrate and teach grammar concepts
Other than Shel Silverstein

- Jack Prelutsky

Poetry for older children, that typical age of 3rd grade that goes beyond Shel Silverstein.
Themes - can lead to a wonderful writing reflection or discussion that allows students to construct the theme and essential questions for themselves.

A palindrome poem,
The rules are simple:

You must use the same words in the first half of the poem as the second half, but Reverse the order for the second half, and Use a word in the middle as a bridge from the first half to the second half of the poem.
Poetry can be used to teach languages
Haiku

• In a spring garden

The frog
Is having a staring match
With me.
—Issa

The toad! It looks as if
It would belch forth
A cloud!
—Issa

haiku 5-7-5 syllable, three line form
Can be used to teach the concept of syllables.
Poetry can also be used to teach non-fiction concepts such as math, science, and music.
Even introducing a non-fiction concept with poetry can help ease students into the subject and make a personal or human connection to the information. Combining the rhyming scheme of a poem and the power of a visual, can help students make multiple connections to a concept that will connect their verbal, visual, and auditory senses to better retain and connect the information.

THE DRAGONFLY

I am the dragon,
The demon of skies.
Behold my bold
Enormous eyes.
I sweep
I swoop
I terrorize.

For lunch I munch
On flies and bees.
Mosquitoes with
My feet I seize.
I am the dragon:
Down on your knees!
Seedlings

Let’s get out of these coats.
I’m not ready. Please wait!

It’s easy. I’ll show you.
Watch me germinate.

Wow! You’re amazing.
What’s that hanging down?

Tiny roots that will keep me
attached to the ground.

And now?
I’m unfurling!
My shoot’s sprouting free.
Are you ready yet?

Yes, definitely!
This poem not only discusses tempo in the music form but also when read correctly illustrates the definition as an auditory stimulus.
Ethnic Poetry

- ABC of African American Poetry
  by Ashley Bryan

Poetry can connect children to ethnicity and or historical events
History such as the use of Langston Hughes’s poetry to teach the Harlem Renaissance - Talk about the project going on with the 1930’s murals.
Poetry can also be used to discuss or present difficult information. In the book Out of the Dust by Hesse, not only is the poetic form used to present very dark concepts such as starvation, the feelings of a child during the dust bowl, death of a parent and sibling, and desperation. But also the presentation of poetry, that is to say the poetic and journal format present this book as a poetry journal of a little girl living through this event and tragic details, which in turn also makes a connection to many young children at the age of 6-8 grade who also write many of their emotions through poetry. This helps them to connect with the narrator and the scene of the story.