

Power of Poetry Sample Week 1

Lesson 1 – Introduction to Poetry – Billy Collins

Please Note: [You can find the link to the poem for this first lesson here.](#)

Sometimes there is a tendency for parents and students to assume that they don't like something or won't like something without having yet tried it. Sometimes there is a tendency for parents and students to assume that they won't like studying poetry or that it will be difficult because somehow poems aren't easy to understand, discuss or write about. However, in this poem, Billy Collins likens looking at poetry to something you can hold up to the light to examine better, to a mouse who can find its way out of a maze, or like a room, where you can walk in and feel for the light switch so you can turn on the light and see what is happening.

Collins' desire is the same as my own for you while you explore a range of poems and poets this semester: to not tie you to a chair and torture you with poetry, but for it to be glorious fun like water-skiing.

This resource is designed for you to study one poem per week for a semester. Each week you are given a poem and then some notes and reflections on the poem. This will include notes about the literary devices used, the grammar and mechanics of the poem and also some teasing out of the symbolism and the meaning of the poem itself. These notes and reflections will ask you some questions and you are encouraged to know the answer to those questions yourself before reading on. Once you have read the poem and the notes and can answer any prompting questions, you will be asked to write a short passage about the poem. This should include your reflections and responses to the poem, along with information about the meaning and mechanics of the poem. Definitely include snippets of the poem within your writing as you need, including any quotes in quotation marks.

This is one lesson where you aren't asked to write a reflection on the poem. Instead, use this lesson to review and record any poetic terms. It may have been a while since you studied poetry so refreshing yourself on terms that will be used throughout the semester is a great place to start. You'll find this information at the beginning of this resource.