

Hyper Poetry - Part I

A Poetry Experience for 12th Graders

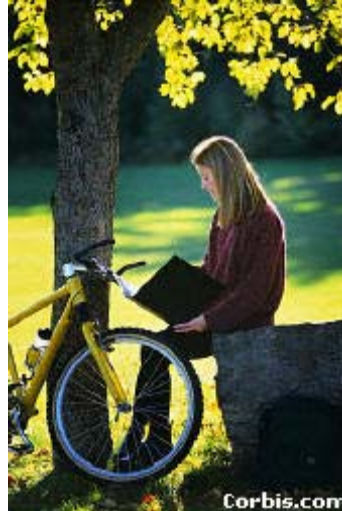
Designed by

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Introduction



I love poetry. That really should come as no surprise to any of you. My goal for this year was to read a poem a day with my students. We haven't succeeded every single day, but we have heard many poems. Here is news flash, though. I haven't always loved poetry. When I was in high school I thought that people who had already been dead for one hundred years and had nothing to do with me wrote poems. I thought that poems were hard to read and hard to understand. I thought that there was only one meaning of a poem and the teacher was the only person who knew what it was.

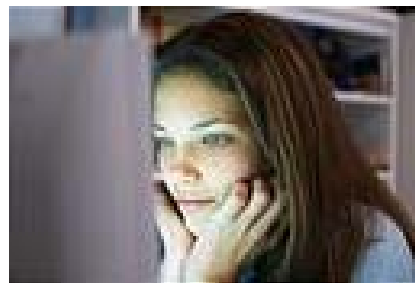
My view of poetry changed, however, when I got to college and began reading and hearing more poetry. I learned that there were many great poets who were still alive and that they wrote poetry that had everything to do with me. I learned that poems could be interpreted in many different ways. The bottom line was that the more poetry I read, the more I loved and understood what I read.

The Task



Your task for today is to read some poetry. Although the poetry in high school textbooks has come a long way, the fact remains that the main portion of the poetry in your textbook is written by people who lived many, many, many years ago. For that reason, you will use the Internet to find poems to read today. Your task is to work with a partner to read ten poems of your choice from any of the following websites. Remember that the more you read, the more you will grow to appreciate, if not enjoy, poetry.

The Process



Read ten poems from any of the following sites on the Internet. Look for titles that interest you. Read the poems aloud if you want. Read them more than one time. Talk to your partner about the poems. Ask questions about the poems. Complete the Reader's Log as you read. The reader's log will serve a couple of purposes. It will be a way for me to check to see if you have completed the assignment and it will help you locate a poem again if you need to.

<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/>

Click on “list of all 180 poems” (even though there are only 99 right now). These are poems that Billy Collins, the Poet Laureate of the United States, chose specifically for high school students.

<http://www.poets.org>

One option here is to click on “poetry exhibits” and then click on “curated exhibits.” You will find poems grouped by theme (i.e. daughters, grief, work, etc.).

<http://www.ibiblio.org/dykki/poetry/>

<http://www.westfolk.org/>

You will find poetry written by real life cowboys here. Go to the bottom of the page and click on “index to the poems and songs.”

<http://www.poems.com>

A new poem is posted here everyday. Click on “previously on Poetry Daily” to see a list of poems.

<http://almanac.mpr.org/poems/index.html>

The last step is to choose one poem out of the ten that you really like and with which you wouldn't mind working some more. Find the poem. Copy and paste it into a Word 2000 document. Save it to a disk provided by me and we will work with the poem some more on Friday.

Evaluation



YES!

NO!

Did you read ten poems?

Did you resist the urge to just write down the titles of ten poems without really reading and enjoying and appreciating the poem?

Did you fill out the reader's log?

Did you save a favorite poem to a disk?