

Carol Jago Poetry Ideas

1. Teacher (or poet via video) reads the poem aloud
2. Student reads the poem silently
3. Student chooses a line and writes about its significance (5 min.)
4. Reread poem with a partner
5. Discuss chosen lines with a partner

Rather than asking, what does a poem mean? Teach students to ask: **What does this poem want me to know?**

Lesson Idea: Goldilocks Assignment

Ask students to read through poems (use online websites!) and find:

1 poem that's too easy

1 poem that's too hard

1 poem that's just right

Ask students to write a 1 page reflection on why that poem is "just right," then share the poem (not the reflection) with the rest of the class.

Result: students read dozens of poems to find the one that is "just right"

Poetry isn't the puzzle to be sorted—it's a friend we try to understand.