

Poetry Exploration: 2nd-3rd Grade

READ ALOUD GUIDE

This guide is designed for use with poetry for grades 2-3. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Standards: RL.2.4, RL.3.4



BEFORE READING

The Cover: Ask students to make a prediction about the poem based on the cover and title.

The Structure: Briefly introduce the type of poem (e.g., rhyming poem, limerick) and ask students what they notice about how the poem sounds or is organized.

Prior Knowledge: Choose one of these questions based on the poem:

- "What do you already know about this topic?"
- "Have you ever experienced or noticed something like this?"
- "How does this topic make you feel?"
- "What words or images come to mind when you think about this?"

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using RIF's Vocabulary Guide. Additionally, introduce relevant poetry terms (e.g., stanza, rhythm, rhyme, imagery)

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, listen to the poem and notice how the words sound and create pictures in your mind."

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What is this poem about?
- What do you notice about the sounds in the poem? Can you find rhyming words, repeated words, or other patterns?
- What pictures do you see in your mind when you hear the poem?
- How does this poem make you feel?



Think Aloud: "I notice the poet uses words like [example] that help me picture [description]. The rhythm of the poem sounds like [comparison]. Some words rhyme or repeat, which makes the poem fun to listen to and helps it flow."

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: "How did the poet use rhythm, rhyme, or descriptive words to help us understand and feel the poem?"

Extending Our Thinking: Guide students to connect the poet's use of language to their own creative writing. Invite them to write a short poem (4-6 lines) on a related theme, incorporating at least one pair of rhyming words and descriptive language to create mental images. Encourage students to illustrate their poems and perform them aloud to practice rhythm, expression, and fluency.

For more fun and activities, visit [RIF.org/Literacy-Central](https://www.RIF.org/Literacy-Central)