

The Poetry Suitcase Revisited

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“In Time of Silver Rain” by Langston Hughes

In time of silver rain
The earth
Puts forth new life again,
Green grasses grow
And flowers lift their heads,
And over all the plain
The wonder spreads
Of life,
Of life,
Of life!

In time of silver rain
The butterflies
Lift silken wings
To catch a rainbow cry,
And trees put forth
New leaves to sing
In joy beneath the sky
As down the roadway
Passing boys and girls
Go singing, too,
In time of silver rain
When spring
And life
Are new.

Langston Hughes Poetry & Biography

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Butterflies

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Poetic Elements

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Help Students Create & Share Poetry

- Atwell, N. (2006). *Naming the world: A year of poems and lessons*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.
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Literary Borrowing

(Racyka, B. (2011). *Lemonade & other poems squeezed from a single word*. New York: Roaring Book Press.)

Step 1: Use the chosen word to generate as many words as possible.

Step 2: Look through the words, select, and arrange words that “mean more than words mean.”

“Tornados”

Torn
Doors
Dot
Roads.

(Krause, A. (2011) *This plus that: Life’s little equations*. New York: Harper.)

_____ + _____ = _____
_____ - _____ = _____

Teachers & Students Have Shared Poetry in These Additional Ways....

1. Have students may prepare small Poetry Suitcases (5 poems/books) using pictures instead of objects.
2. Invite outside readers to prepare small suitcases (5 poems/books) of their favorite poems and objects or pictures.
3. Students may also prepare a Poetry Suitcase of student-created poetry.
4. Gather objects related to poems & put poems into a notebook (photocopy a front cover of the book & write out and decorate the poem) then make a tape recording of each poem so children can use the suitcase as a center.
5. Prepare a suitcase on a particular topic, poetic form, element, or a poet. Use different containers that connect to the topic or setting in which the poetry will be shared.
6. Create a Poetry Wall. Xerox or copy different poems and decorate them.
Then post them or reproduce them and hand them out at lunchtime as bookmarks.
7. Make copies of some of the poems so they can be Choral Readings:
 - Read in unison.
 - Read as fast as you can.
 - Read from slow to fast, from fast to slow.
 - Read from loud to soft, from soft to loud.
 - Teacher reads the lines; group re-reads the same line.
 - Teacher reads one line, group reads alternate lines.
 - Read cumulatively (one student begins and others add on...).

(Swartz, L. (1993). *Classroom events through poetry*. Markham, OT: Pembroke.)
8. Have children share poetry with others using art & sound through Photo Story & Comic Life. (Miller, L. (2010). *Make me a story: Teaching writing through digital storytelling*. Portland, ME: Stenhouse.)
9. Copy and decorate poems on bookmarks to hand out on the playground and in the lunchroom.
10. Copy poems on paper bags and distribute at local grocery stores and book stores to celebrate National Poetry Month.
11. Have students participate in a scavenger hunt for poetry posted throughout the school.
12. Ask local businesses to offer discounts for students who bring in a poem.

Rah, Rah, radishes! A Vegetable Chant
By April Pulley Sayre

RAH, RAH, RADISHES!

Red and white.

CARROTS ARE CALLING.

Take a bite!

OH BOY, BOK CHOY!

Brussels sprout.

BROCCOLI. CALIFLOWER.

Shout it out!

PILE UP PEPPERS—

Bananas, bells.

CRUNCH THEIR COLORS.

Smell their smells!

CALL FOR CAYENNE.

Pick poblano.

HOLA, HABANERO!

Jalapeno, Serrano!

LETTUCE. LIMA.

Go, green bean!

CUCUMBER'S COOL.

Kohlrabi's queen!

EGGPLANT'S EXTRAORDINARY.

Pumpkin's art.

DON'T EAT ZUCCHINI?

Time to start!

SNAG SOME SWEET CORN!

Shuck an ear.

CELEBRATE CELERY.

Give a cheer!

ONION. SCALLION.

Leek and shallot.

GRAB THAT GARLIC.

Please your palate!

HEAD FOR CABBAGE.

Greens for sale.

FALL FOR FENNEL, SWISS CHARD, KALE!

Root for rutabagas.

BOUNCE FOR BEETS!

Pile up parsnips.

TURNIP TREATS!

Stash some squash.

FILL YOUR CUPBOARD!

Butternut, buttercup, acorn, Hubbard!

POTATOES. TOMATOES.

Yum a yam!

SLICE 'EM. MASH 'EM.

Wham! Wham! Wham!

ASK FOR ASPARAGUS.

Pea pods, please.

THANK YOU, FARMERS.

Thank you, bees.

SUN AND SEASONS, LEAF AND STALK.

Know them. Grow them!

Veggies Rock!!!!!!