

K12 HANDHELDS

POETRY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

K12 Handhelds is making available free electronic resources for poetry. These resources are available at www.k12handhelds.com/curriculum.

Here some simple activities you can do using these resources:

- Have students use the highlighting function in MobiPocket to highlight various sections in the “Poetry Anthology” ebook. (To highlight text in MobiPocket, just select it and hold. Then select highlight from the pop-up menu.) You might have students highlight literary devices (similes, metaphors, personification, etc.), examples of vivid language, stressed syllables (to emphasize rhythm), etc.
- Have students draw a picture of a scene from a poem. They could also draw a storyboard showing a sequence of events. This can be done in MobiPocket, Notes, Sketchy, NoviiAnimator, or another drawing program.
- After using the “Types of Poetry” ebook to study different types of poems, have students choose a type and write their own poem.
- Assign students a topic, such as colors, sports, seasons, etc. and have them write a poem about it using vivid language, including similes and metaphors. A good way to begin is to have students use a tool like Inspiration to brainstorm ideas. One starting point is the five senses, i.e. What does ___ smell like? What does ___ taste like? etc.
- Have students choose two poems and contrast them. They can do this in Word or with a graphic organizer like Inspiration. They should contrast things like tone, mood, use of language, etc.
- Have students create their own quiz in Quizzler with key vocabulary words from a poem. Then have them beam each other their quizzes. (This is a good way to reinforce vocabulary that is also fun for kids.)
- Have students research the life of a poet and read several poems by that person. What consistent themes are evident? How might the poet’s life be reflected in his or her work?

Here are some more advanced activities:

- Have students make a recording of their favorite poem. They can do this individually or in groups. Students can use software like [Audacity](#) or [Garageband](#) to edit the audio and add their own tracks. (Watch for copyright issues. All of the poems in the “Poetry Anthology” are public domain, but if you go beyond this, copyright may be an issue.)
- Have students create a multimedia presentation of a poem, incorporating images, spoken words, and music. This can be done with PowerPoint, MovieMaker, iMovie, or some of the new Web 2.0 tools like Zoho.
- Have students create a poetry blog or wiki. Over time, students and add their own writing or other information they come across. (If you don’t already have a classroom blog, [Blogger](#) is a good place to start. [Wikispaces](#) is a place you can set up a wiki for free.)

We hope you enjoy these resources. If you would like to share ideas about how you used them or what you did in your classroom, please email us at info@k12handhelds.com. We’ll share these in a future issue of our newsletter.