

CONNECTING WITH POETRY PROJECT # 6

DRAMA AND RESEARCH

BE THE POET!: INSTRUCTIONS FOR A MONOLOGUE OR DIALOGUE:

This is an activity that can be done with a partner or by yourself.

Choose a poem.

Pretend that you are the author of the poem you are using. If you can, find out something about the author in reference books or data bases. Where and how the poet lived may have a big effect on the poem. Age and gender could affect it too.

Try to imagine where you might have been if you have just written this poem. Use the details in the poem to figure out what might you have just seen, done, heard, smelled, tasted, felt, or otherwise experienced? Imagine what difficulties the poet might have had in thinking of a rhyme or rhythm or special word.

Make up an imaginary telephone call to a friend in which you are excited about writing the poem and want to tell all about it. Be sure to include reading bits of the poem and the whole poem at least once. Your "friend" can ask questions or ask you to reread any special parts. The questions may be ones you would like to ask about the poem. If you can't think of an answer, ask your teacher, librarian, other students or adults for their opinions.

If you are working with a partner, one can be the poet and the other the friend.

If you are working by yourself, say the questions out loud as if you are repeating after your friend.

Practice your dialogue or monologue. Present it to a group or tape record it.

POINTS FOR FOCUS AND EVALUATION:

1. Did you attempt to research for information about the poet's circumstances?
2. Did you use clues in the poem to find out about the poet's experiences?
3. Did you make a list of questions you would like to ask the poet? Did you try to figure out the answers? Did you ask for help with any tough ones? Sometimes even the poet does not know why certain things are there. It's all right not to know.
4. Did you practice the dialogue or monologue? If you are doing a monologue, did you remember to say the questions out loud as if the other person were asking them
5. Did you present or tape record your work?
6. If you worked with a partner did you cooperate to get the job done well and on time? What could you have done to make the job easier or the result better?