

### Grade 4 – Poetry Reading and Writing

In this month’s reading and writing units, your child will develop a deep understanding of anthologies as a collection of poems on a similar topic or theme. Your child will practice poetry-reading strategies and apply those learned skills to his/her writing of poetry.

Skills your child will focus on in this unit are:

- Reading poetry effectively using punctuation, line breaks, and whitespace
- Stopping and thinking after each stanza in order to synthesize
- Using sensory images; words that apply to the five senses
- Noticing different perspectives on the same topic
- Connecting song lyrics/meaning to poetry
- Understanding similes and metaphors
- Determining the meaning of a poem
- Distinguishing between different structures such as haiku, limerick, shape poems, cinquain etc...

Questions to consider asking your child:

- Why do you think the author titled the poem \_\_\_\_?
- Who is the narrator in your poem?
- What is the meaning of each stanza in your poem?
- Which words from your poem helped you create images in your mind?
- What do you notice about the author’s craft?
- Why do you think the author chose to follow or ignore certain writing rules?

A variety of poetry will be shared with your child throughout these units. We will look at anthologies as well as selected poems from various poets, both past and present.

Your child will have the opportunity to not only read poems but also apply what was learned into his/her writing. Your child will practice poetry reading/writing strategies daily. You can support your child at home by reading poems, discussing the meaning, and searching for new ways to write your own poems.

Although poetry is the focus of this unit, please continue to encourage your child read both fiction and nonfiction texts.