



Dear Parents,

This week in the writing workshop we begin our unit of study on poetry. It's hard to imagine our very small children on a learning trajectory toward to becoming the next William Shakespeares, Emily Dickinsons and Maya Angelous, isn't it? But you will be amazed, as I plan to be, by the writing they can do in this unit—they are able to create poems with so much more weight and power than the rhyming jingles we often imagine young children's poetry to be!

We will start by looking at the world through the eyes of a poet—examining objects closely, and trying to see them in fresh, interesting ways. I hope you will join your child in patiently studying and putting words to the details and moments of life the two of you notice together. This is the work that will most support your child in becoming a poet.

Throughout the unit, we will study many ways poets work and some of the tools and strategies poets use. We'll work with the structure of poetry, learning how poets use line breaks and white space. We'll talk about and practice locating a big, universal feeling or idea in a small, personal object or moment. We'll discuss and try ways to find the precise words that convey our intended meaning. We'll experiment with rhythms and patterns, repetition and musicality. We'll build analogies, metaphors and similes, and extend those bits of figurative language throughout the bodies of our verses. Of course, as always, we'll revise and edit and publish our poems.

We are all looking forward to sharing our poetry work with you, throughout the unit and at the celebration!

Sincerely,
The First Grade Teachers