

## About this Unit

This lesson plan was designed for you, the instructor. Whether you have taught poetry for years, or this is your first time, this plan has something for everyone to use. This ten-day plan is unique because it introduces poetry through peer-level student authors to help educators inspire students to write their own poems.

Your school's contest must end on **January 19, 2016**, with the winning poem due no later than **January 29, 2016**. We strongly suggest teaching this unit as soon as possible to give students the necessary exposure to various poems and several months' time to devote to their own poetry writing. This contest is not designed for students to produce a poem in one class period. It is imperative to not only give students ample time to write poetry, but time to make revisions to the poem(s) they want to submit to *The 7GP Contest*.

The lesson plans are optional, but they include many poems from previous 7GP winners. *The 7GP Contest* winning poems are included not only as a teaching tool to compare student writing with famous poets, but also to motivate students to achieve their greatest potential.

The lessons are organized beginning with **Core Curriculum Standards**. For each day, there is a set of standards that the lesson follows. In order to make this lesson plan usable across the nation, it does not contain individual state standards—that is up to you, the instructor, to incorporate. However, these lessons are flexible and easily modified.

After the standards, there is a section for each of the following:

**Outcomes** relates to the goals students will accomplish that day.

**Themes, Issues, Concepts** are ideas that come from the readings and activities.

**Literary Terms** are the specific words that students will be exposed to in the particular lesson.

**Materials** list anything that you might need for that lesson.

Each lesson plan is set up in the following order:

**DO NOW** is a warm-up activity to get your students' brains going for the day.

**WHOLE GROUP** means that the entire class will participate.

**PARTNERS/SMALL GROUPS** breaks the class into either pairs or groups of three, maybe four.

**INDIVIDUAL** is the time for each student to work on his or her own.

**REFLECTION** is the time where the whole class gathers together again.

**HOMEWORK** is a suggested activity at the end of each day's lesson for lesson reinforcement.

You will notice that some lessons have an "Adapted from" section. This means that the particular lesson for that day was inspired by whatever website and/or book was cited.

*Reflections on a Gift of Watermelon Pickle* is also a great resource you might find useful. This book is a collection of modern poems that appeal to young people. You may even want to use children's books as a means to inspire good writing. Cathy O'Brien, 7GP Educator Liaison, suggests *Saturdays and Teacakes* for examples of verbs, figurative language, and descriptive language.

We hope this lesson plan will be helpful and inspiring to both you and your students. As 7GP's Founder Aaron Williams states, "Anyone can write a great poem and everyone deserves that chance."

Sincerely,

The 7th Grade Poetry Foundation



**Remind your students each day to think of the poem they want to write for *The 7GP Contest*. Winning poems are due and must be submitted to 7GP no later than January 29, 2016.**