

6th Grade ELA  
In Class Poetry Project  
Due: March 2

**Source Suggestions:**

Library books	Magazines	Books at home
<b>Poetry collections</b>	<a href="http://www.familyfriendpoems.com">www.familyfriendpoems.com</a>	<a href="http://www.poetrysoup.com">www.poetrysoup.com</a>
<a href="http://www.poetry.org">www.poetry.org</a>	<a href="http://www.poets.org">www.poets.org</a>	<a href="http://www.favoritepoem.org">www.favoritepoem.org</a>
<a href="http://www.bartleby.com">www.bartleby.com</a>	<a href="http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/">http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/</a>	<a href="http://www.daypoems.net/nodes/677.html">http://www.daypoems.net/nodes/677.html</a>
<a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/</a>	<a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/">http://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/</a>
Bibliomania	<a href="https://www.poets.org/">https://www.poets.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.poemhunter.com">www.poemhunter.com</a>

**Suggested Poets:**

Edgar Allen Poe	Emily Dickinson	Robert Frost
William Blake	Carl Sandburg	Gary Soto
Lewis Carroll	William Butler Yeats	Walt Whitman
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Stevie Smith ("Not Waving but Drowning")	William Shakespeare
E.E. Cummings	Maya Angelou	Oscar Wilde
Sarah Teasdale	Elizabeth Browning	John Donne
Shel Silverstein	Roald Dahl	Rudyard Kipling
Christina Rossetti	Henry Wadsworth Longfellow	Dorothy Parker

**Assignment:**

Your assignment is to create your own anthology of poetry. You are the *editor* of this anthology (The person who chooses the poems and puts the book together). The lesson involves looking closely at poems and learning about tools that poets use to help readers see images and to convey ideas in poems. You will also develop research skills and will create additional materials (commentary on poems, a table of contents, bibliography, and glossary). Your anthology will be illustrated. You may draw, select photos, or use images from greeting cards, calendars, magazines or other sources to decorate your books. Your anthology will be a personal collection that expresses your unique personality and taste. Work and planning will take place at home and school. Remember this will not be completed in one day, weekend, or week. It is a process of reading and choosing, of preparing to create a collection that reflects who you are. Have fun with it!

You will write short biographies for each of the five poets you choose, telling a little about their lives in your own words. Poets often write from their experiences. Knowing about the lives of poets can help you to understand their poems in a deeper way.

**Instructions:**

Cover

Design a cover using a drawing, photos or other images. Include on the cover the book's title, and the name of the author and illustrator.

Title Page

List the title, author, publisher (you can create a publisher's name), place published (your town), and date of publication (date due).

## Dedication

The dedication is a line acknowledging to or for whom the book was created. Sometimes dedications offer a few words of thanks.

## Table of Contents

List your book's chapters and the poems within them. Include page numbers to tell the reader where chapters begin and where poems can be found. Also, list the special sections at the back of the book, like the glossary and bibliography (these are usually called "Appendices").

## Poet Pages

You will choose at least 5 poets for your anthology. For each, you will write a brief biographical paragraph of 5-7 sentences. Include a picture of the poet, if you can find a photo to guide you. If you cannot locate a picture of the poet, you may draw a picture of him or her.

*Theme and evidence...* If the poem has a theme, write the theme of each poem you selected from the poet and then include at least one piece of evidence as to why you believe that is the correct theme.

*Tone...* Write a sentence or two about the tone of the poem. A simple definition of tone is "a way of saying"; the tone of a poem reflects the attitude of the poet toward what or whom the poem addresses. In considering this, you can ask yourself how the poem makes you feel. How do you think the poet felt when he or she wrote the poem? Try to find a few words or phrases that describe the tone of the poem. Consider whether the tone changes throughout the poem or remains the same.

*Rhyme Scheme...* If the poem has rhymes at the end of the lines, chart the rhyme scheme. (We will review this in class). If there is no rhyme scheme, write that the poem does not have rhyme. Unrhymed poems are usually called "free verse" poems.

*Poet's Tools...* We have learned about various tools poets use to make poems rich and vivid and to convey meaning and ideas. Find and record at least two places in the poem where a poet uses a special tool or "literary device", such as personification, hyperbole, alliteration, metaphor, or simile. Think and write at least two sentences about the effect.

## Various Poems

In the next section, you will collect poems of different kinds and poems written in different forms. Include one lyric poem written by a poet who doesn't appear in the previous sections and one narrative poem. A *lyric poem* is usually a shorter poem that conveys intense feeling or powerful thought. (In ancient Greece, lyrics were sung or recited to the accompaniment of a musical instrument called a lyre.) A *narrative poem* tells a clear story. Narrative poems usually involve one or more characters, and something always *happens* in a narrative poem (a dramatic action or event). Write a sentence or two about *why* the poems would be classified as narrative or lyric. Both kinds of poems can rhyme or be written in various forms.

Then, choose poems written in different forms. Include a haiku, a limerick, a ballad or folk song.

Finally, include a poem you have written. Is it a narrative or lyric? Did you use a particular form?

## Glossary

Were there any words in the poems that you had never seen before or that you don't hear very often? Make a list of them here in alphabetical order and provide definitions. Find at least 10-20 words.

## Bibliography

List the sources (hard copy or electronic) you used to write the book. Use your reference list for citations.

