

Name: _____
Schaffer/E1

Date: _____
Period: _____

Poetry Out Loud

“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most *powerful*” - Rita Dove

Because of this, we want to share it, want to shout it, want to move it, want to scream it, sing it, make it ***loud***.

Poetry Out Loud is an exciting national recitation contest that our school participates in every year. Students memorize and recite a poem, first on the classroom level, with an opportunity to move up and compete school-wide, and ultimately at the national level. Today, right here in this classroom, is where we start...

“A great poem has much to tell if we can find a way to listen. It will speak to us and for us, giving voice to times of great joy or great loss.” We know from our readings and discussions, that silence is simply not an option at a time that demands so much *voice*. Poetry is a great way to spread powerful messages in a short, concise, and simply beautiful way.

Where We Enter: Friends, the following is a list of beautiful, powerful, timeless poems about social justice, voice, innocence, rising up, you *name* it. They all connect to ideas of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the work we’ve been doing, and provide an incredibly insightful way of re-examining these themes and big ideas.

Your Job: Spend this time looking through these poems online (poetryoutloud.org) and ultimately deciding on one poem that you can connect with, and bring to life for us in the upcoming weeks.

Step 1: Pick a poem! Visit poetryoutloud.org, and browse these poems. See which ones you like and can see yourself performing.

Step 2: In the attached graphic organizer, write down **three** titles of poems that immediately catch your eye, and seem like good options for you to memorize and recite in your own, beautiful, powerful way. I will be here to help you find a good match, as well.

Step 3: Spend some time putting each of these three poems into your own words. This should be as detailed and precise as possible, because this will help you understand the text and decide which poem you really like more both in terms of language and message.

Step 4: Make your final selection! Which one do you like best? Which one can you memorize and perform so nicely? Start working to memorize the poem using the **Tips for Memorization** on the next page. There are recitation videos on the **Poetry out Loud** website that will help you understand what is expected of you. Please start planning your performance. Please view these. We are looking for **voice, dramatization, articulation** in picking students to go on to the school-wide competition. Happy P.O.L.ing! I’m so excited to see what you all do!!

DATES TO REMEMBER: 1. Graphic Organizer & selected poem due 11/3/17 (Friday!). 2. Classroom Competition Week of 11/20 (Before Thanksgiving!)

Possible Poems for Poetry Out Loud Performances:
(Look at that alliteration! Amazing!)

1. **“Caged Bird” - Maya Angelou**
2. **“Kin” - Maya Angelou**
3. **“What Kind of Times Are These?” - Adrienne Rich**
4. **“Eagle Poem” - Joy Harjo**
5. **“As Children Know” - Jimmy Santiago Baca**
6. **“They Are Hostile Nations” - Margaret Atwood**
7. **“The World is Too Much With Us” - William Wordsworth**
8. **“The Tables Turned” - William Wordsworth**
9. **“Ozymandias” - Percy Shelley**
10. **“truth” - Gwendolyn Brooks**
11. **“Fortuna” - Thomas Carlyle**
12. **“BLK History Month” - Nikki Giovanni**
13. **“Always Something More Beautiful” - Stephen Dunn**

TIPS FOR MEMORIZATION:

1. **Read your poem aloud at least 2-3 times a day.**
2. **Carry around a copy of your poem. You’ll find several moments throughout the day to reread or recite it...**
3. **Practice reading or reciting your poem to friends or family (or Ms. Schaffer!)**

Tips for Recitation:

1. **Emphasize important words!**
2. **Dramatic Pauses!**

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Poetry Out Loud Poem Selection & Paraphrase Organizer

Poem I Really, Really Liked:	My Detailed, Precise Paraphrase:
Poem #1: Title: Author:	
Poem #2: Title: Author:	
Poem #3: Title: Author:	

Poem I've Chosen to Perform: _____

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