

Poem of the Day / Poem of the Week! (Musselwhite, 2008)

12 Texts A Day: Background Information

Did you know . . . 'good kindergarten teachers' (nominated-effective teachers) read from at least 12 different texts a day!! (Pressley et al, 2001). This is often NOT true in self-contained special education classrooms. This tip will suggest several quick and painless ways integrate text into classrooms for students with significant disabilities.

Why Poems?

Poetry is one great way to support students with through print and sound. Poems offer many resources for ALL students, including students with significant disabilities. Below are some great reasons to increase your use of poetry in the classroom:

- **Rhythm / rhyme / repetition:** Many poems have these and other great features to support beginning readers. If you put poems on chart paper, or project written poems on the wall, students can search for patterns such as visible rhymes (rimes), and words that sound the same, but are spelled differently (See the June, 2007 tip for more information on rhythm, rhyme, and repetition)

- **Age-respectful, appropriate texts:** Poems can offer engaging reading / listening materials for older students who are beginning or struggling readers

Engaging, motivating texts: The sheer pleasure of listening to or reading engaging poems can support students who are reluctant readers. Consider having students who are beginning readers, or who use AAC share in poetry performance with their typical peers. See *Poetry Power* (Musselwhite & Wagner, 2006) for specific ideas on poetry performance for students who use communication devices.

Where to Find Poetry Texts?

You can download or listen to many delightful poems. Two favorite websites are:

www.gigglepoetry.com: an ever-expanding set of fun poems to listen to or put on charts, plus poetry-writing activities, and poetry performance ideas

www.poetry4kids.com : Kenn Nesbit's website includes many delightful poems, games, and even a rhyming dictionary.

In *Poetry Power*, Musselwhite & Wagner provide an extensive list of poetry supports (p. 5). Three ever-favorite authors are:

- Jack Prelutsky (e.g., *New Kid on the Block*)
- Shel Silverstein (e.g., *Where the Sidewalk Ends*)
- Ogden Nash (e.g., *The Ogden Nash Treasury*)

For more information, see: Poetry Tip (September, 2002) and 12 Texts A Day: Down Time (June, 2008).

Resources & References

Musselwhite, C., & Wagner, D. (2006). *Poetry Power Book & Poetry Power CD*. Litchfield Park, AZ: AAC Intervention. www.aacintervention.com

Musselwhite, C. & King-DeBaun, P. (1997). *Emergent Literacy Success: Merging technology and whole language for students with disabilities*. Park City, UT: Creative Communicating.