



## A – Z of poetry reading ideas

**Assembly** – hold a poetry assembly where each class performs poems.

**Buy words** – which words would you buy or borrow from a poem? Keep a notebook to store tasty words.

**Cut up and close reading** – cut up a poem for someone else to reassemble – by word, line or verse. Or cut out words and leave spaces to be filled.

**Drawing** – illustrate a poem: create poem posters.

**Enthusiasm** – discuss what you liked in a poem, what you didn't like: draw up a desert island list of top ten poems or poets; hold a vote across the school.

**Feelings** – read and discuss what poems make you feel and think. Write down or share your first impressions.

**Gossip** – chat about poets and poems. Hold regular 'recommendation' sessions where you promote a poet or poem that you think others will enjoy.

**Highlights** – which are the highlights of a poem? Which is a poet's best poem and why? Use a highlighter to identify key words or lines.

**Imitate** – imitate poetic ideas or patterns and write a poem yourself.

**Journals** – keep a poetry journal: each week stick in a new poem that you like.

**Know it by heart** – learn poems by heart. Chant, perform and sing poems out loud. Add in percussion and chime bars. Dance it.

**Letters** – write to poets ... or to characters in their poems.

**Memories** – what memories does a poem stir: what do you see in your mind; what does it remind you of?

**Newspaper headlines** – create a newspaper headline and article about a poem or what is happening in a poem, especially narrative poetry.

**Organise** – a poetry reading or poetry day. Invite poets into school for book weeks or arts festivals.

**Performance** – perform poems: make tapes and videos. Send these to other classes or schools.

**Question** – ask questions about poems: what puzzles you? what are you not certain about? Discuss mysteries. Remember: not everything makes sensible sense – sometimes poems have to be experienced and not just understood.

**Reread** – keep rereading a poem to let its meaning creep upon you; let the words sink forever into your mind.

**Swap** – swap poems over. Find one you think your partner would enjoy.

**Title** – hide the title of a poem: what might the poem be called?

**Underline** – use a coloured pencil to underline, star or circle parts of a poem that are of interest: likes, dislikes, puzzles or patterns.

**Video** – video a reading or class performance of a poem. Put on a poetry show.

**Weekly** – have a poet of the week or month: read their poems each day.

**X-ray** – put on your x-ray vision when reading: try to see and listen to the heart of a poem.

**Yardstick** – collect a few poems that act as your poetic yardstick: what is a really good poem by which all others have to be judged; which are the great ones ... And why?

**Zodiac** – create a zodiac of poems: one for each star (or month) sign.

© Pie Corbett 2013