

Amplifying ELs' Voices: Creative Strategies for Teaching Poetry

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What the Literature Says

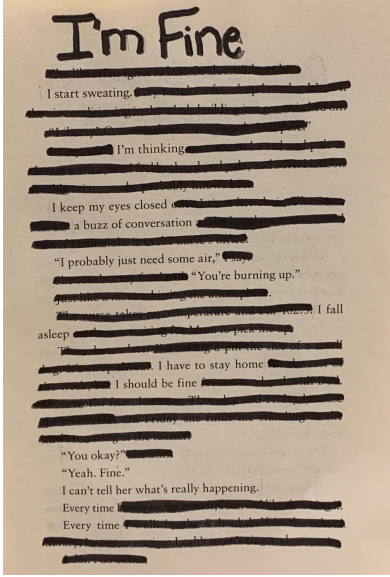
Teachers' Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Too complex to teach (Štulajterová, 2010)● Too difficult for ELs to grasp (Khatib, 2011)● The genre that sparks the most apprehension (Lockward, 1994)
Possible Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Opportunity to empower ELs (Zhao, 2014)● Chance to explore L2 identity (Atsushi, 2016)● Personalize class content (Hanauer, 2012)

Dos and Dont's for Teaching Poetry

DO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● be sensitive to students' feelings about their own writing*● encourage a personal relationship with the poem*● allow time for multiple readings*● provide opportunities for students to write their own poems*● support students with finding authors who speak to them● find ways to make poetry come alive
DON'T	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● spend too much time explaining a poem*● gives tests on poetry*● overly concern yourself with specific techniques*● force students to memorize poems● worry about grammar or if something "makes sense"● underestimate your students' abilities <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">* Source: (Lockward,1994)</p>

Strategies that Work	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask Wh- questions2. Find age-relevant examples3. Bring your students to a poetry event near you
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Different Techniques to Try in Your Classroom

Blackout	Sense	Inventory
 <p>Written by Haley (Armstrong, 2020) http://writeonfighton.org/2020/04/25/quarantine-blackout-poetry-volume-2-a-fat-her-daughter-project/</p>	<p>Fear Smells like the skin of burnt marshmallows, smells like burning hair Tastes like chalk and Robitussin and vinegar, Sounds like thunder one-one-thousand-BOOM away, Feels like numbed cold fingers, Feels like pressure inside my lungs, Feels like my body's not my body, make my body Disappear, Fear</p> <p>(Nemetsn08, 2014) https://www.slideshare.net/nemetsn08/poem-examples</p>	<p>Quarantine</p> <p>I didn't know I'd miss waiting at traffic lights, waiting for a burst of colour, a static of sound. I didn't know I'd miss noise, crowds, the breath of rain as it hits parched tarmac, being Near enough to hear people's breath. I didn't realise I was only exactly alone when I was walking home from school, or to the shops. I didn't realise it was the in-between times that held me together.</p> <p>Written by Linet (Brownlee, 2020) https://childrenspoetrysummit.com/2020/05/22/kate-clanchy-quarantine-poems/</p>

Resources to Explore Further

[Poetry Slams | Eventbrite](#)

[Urban Word | NYC](#)

[CitizenSchools.org](#)

[Quarantine Poetry | WriteOnFightOn.org](#)

[YouthSpeaks.org](#)

[Poetic Exercises | Education World](#)

["I Am" Poem | ReadWriteThink.org](#)

[Poetry and Young Learners | ReadingRockets.org](#)

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