

Developing a poetry culture in the classroom

Building a positive culture for poetry in the classroom is multi-faceted. Taking time to read and enjoy poems regularly without an expectation that students analyse, answer questions or write, will allow students time to enjoy and become familiar with the features of different forms of poetry and develop an ‘ear’ for poetry. It will also enrich and develop their vocabulary. Students need multiple exposures to poetry before they are ready to write their own poems. Modelling a love of poetry is important so that students develop positive attitudes towards poetry.

Planning lots of opportunities for students to read and recite poems by themselves, in groups and as a class, will help to make poetry ‘come alive’. Listening to recordings of poets reading their poems or inviting a poet to the school to share their work, models performance reading and enriches the experience. Share students’ own favourite poems and encourage students to bring a poem or rhyme from their culture to share with the class. These poems could be published in a class book.

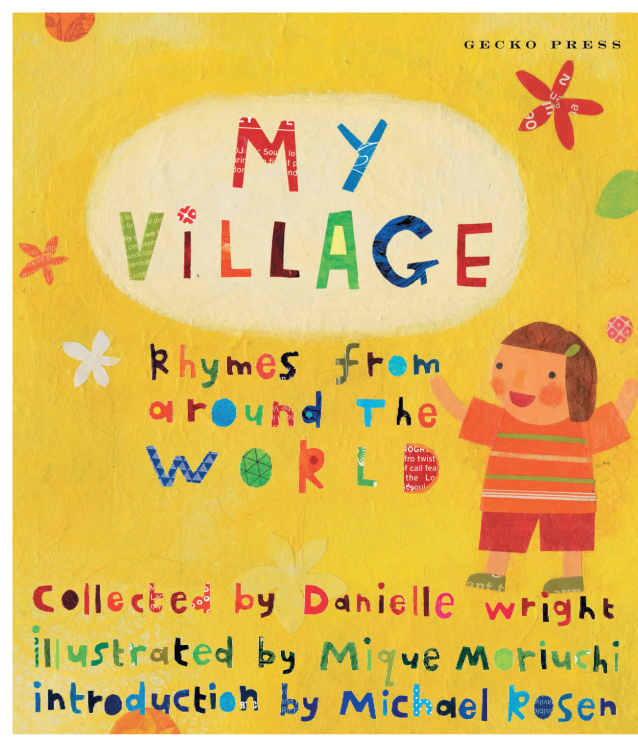
Displaying poetry in the classroom and having a range of poems available to read will also help to build a positive culture for poetry.

Resources for poetry

Building a collection of resources in the classroom and school will support the teaching of poetry.

Some ideas are:

- poem anthologies
- poem cards — stored in boxes or digital folders; the Exemplar poems 1 – 42 could be printed out and laminated to create a set of poem cards
- links to poetry websites for students to choose poems to read as independent reading activities
- class poem books — published sets of poems written by students
- a poetry basket containing a range of poetry books.



Reading rhymes and poetry from other cultures acknowledges the universal nature of poetry.



Students read books from the poetry basket.