



Deck Your December with Poetry

Have you checked out the 800s at your local library? Children's poetry is hidden among nonfiction text and this is a great month to uncover it! Why poetry?



Poetry is music. It helps children discover the sounds of our language and builds phonemic awareness. Rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance are all poetic tools that give words voice. According to Mem Fox, "*If children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight.*"



Poetry is about looking at our world in a unique way. Poets describe universal feelings using metaphors, personification, similes, and imagery. Poetry can help children understand multiple perspectives. Poetry helps us build community.

Poetry embodies speaking and listening; two skills critical for students to grow. Memorizing poetry can help build vocabulary and fluency.



Poetry can help make the rigorous common core state standards accessible to all learners. Poems can be closely read to help students with inference and analysis skills.

Next time your family heads to the library, head to the 800s and check out following poetry collections:

Shoe Magic by Nikki Grimes



Touch the Poem by Arnold Adoff

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein



Love to Mama: A Tribute to Mothers edited by Pat Mora

Love to Langston by Tony Medina

Night Garden: Poems from the World of Dreams by Janet Wong.

Snuggle up and read poetry,
-Kristy Delikat

Fox, Mem. (2001). *Reading Magic, Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever*. San Diego, CA: Harcourt.

