

# ***POETRY IN YOUR CLASSROOM***

---

A lesson plan for grades 7 to 12  
by Tanya Neumeyer

Made with the support of the League of  
Canadian Poets and the Ontario Arts Council

# ***SPOKEN WORD POETRY***

Making poetry come alive with performance: bodies and voices

Roots in Black and Indigenous oral storytelling and theatre

Performance tools: gesture, tone, pace, body language, volume

**EXERCISE:**

---

**WRITE FOR THREE  
MINUTES ABOUT  
ANYTHING YOU WANT**

# **DEAR YOUNG WOMAN**

Britta B., 2019

What do you like about this poem?

What words or phrases jumped out at you?

What facial expressions did Britta use?

***DEAR YOUNG WOMAN***

**WRITING PROMPT:**

---

**WHAT ARE YOUR  
HOPES?**

***BRITTA B.***

# ***FIVE FOOT POST (AN ODE)***

David Delisca, 2020

How does David use his voice to perform this poem?

How did the music make you feel?

What story is David telling us?

***FIVE FOOT POST (AN ODE)***

**WRITING PROMPT:**

---

**WHO ARE YOU MISSING  
OR REMEMBERING  
TODAY?**

***DAVID DELISCA***

# ***TRANSILIENCE***

Charlie Petch, 2018

What do you remember?

What questions do you have about  
Charlie's poem?

How was it to see the poem on  
screen while Charlie performed it?

***TRANSILIENCE***

**WRITING PROMPT:**

---

**WHAT DOES YOUR  
INNER KID DREAM OF?**

***CHARLIE PETCH***

# ***TOMBOY***

Tanya Neumeyer, 2017

What stands out after hearing this poem?

What does the audience sound like?

What gestures did Tanya use?

***TOMBOY***

**WRITING PROMPT:**

---

**DESCRIBE A MOMENT  
THAT CHANGED YOU  
WHEN YOU WERE A KID**

***TANYA NEUMEYER***

# ***YOU KNOW WHAT PISSSES ME OFF?***

Team piece by Britta B., David Delisca, Charlie Petch, and Tanya Neumeyer, 2012

What was it like to see 4 poets on stage together?

How did you feel when the poets yelled?

How did the poets coordinate their actions?

What do you think it's like to write a poem as a team?

***YOU KNOW WHAT PISSES ME OFF?***

**WRITING PROMPT:**

---

**WHAT PISSES YOU OFF?**

***COACH PROMPT FROM ALESSANDRA NACCARATO***

How do the poems speak to one another?

What do these poets have in common?

What have you learned about spoken word today?

**EXERCISE:**

---

**WRITE ABOUT WHAT  
POETRY CAN DO**

***FIND A POEM  
TO BRING FOR  
DISCUSSION***

Brickyard

---

Spoken Word Saturday

---

Poetry in Voice

---

Words Aloud