

Poetry & More
After-school Performance Program
Time Frame: 4 weeks

Poetry & More was developed to give students an opportunity to develop oral fluency, to build performance confidence, to practice with stories and to have fun.

Week 1	Poetry
Week 2	Story retell with felt stories
Week 3	Reader's theatre
Week 4	Puppets & story
Optional	Public performance

Information Literacy Standards:

- Standard 1: Accesses info efficiently & effectively
- Standard 3: Uses info accurately & creatively
- Standard 4: Pursues info related to personal interests
- Standard 7: Contributes to learning community
- Standard 9: Works in groups to generate information

State (Arizona) Academic Standards

- Strand 1: Reading, Grade 2, CO5: Fluency
 - PO1. Consistently read grade level text with 90 percent accuracy.
 - PO2. Read aloud with fluency in a manner that sounds like natural speech, demonstrating automaticity.
- Strand 2: Comprehending Literary Text, CO1: Elements of Literature
 - PO3: Sequence a series of events in a literary selection.
 - PO5: Identify words that the author selects in a literary selection to create a graphic visual experience.
 - PO6: Identify words that the author selects to create a rich auditory experience (e.g. alliteration, onomatopoeia, assonance, consonance) in a literary selection.

Pre/Post fluency testing resulted in gains for each student.

Week 1: Poetry

Session 1:

Read and discuss poetry. Emphasis is on fluency, voice volume, projection, and annunciation. Students read and choose two poems for copying. Students read poems aloud in small groups. Stage performance criteria introduced and demonstrated. Students stand, give names—practice.

Session 2:

Teachers perform two poems. Students practice in groups for 20 minutes to read and recite. Students practice reading poems from folders in stage position. Students perform before the group. Copies of poems sent home to practice.

Week 2: Story retell (felt stories)

Concentration on verbally retelling familiar stories.

Session 1:

Teacher demonstrates felt story performance using short nursery rhymes. Students form groups and choose traditional stories in felt to practice. Students read the story, practice retell with the felt pieces on the table.

Week 2: Story retell (felt stories) (continued)

Session 2:

Students practice story retell with pieces on board. Critique for presentation: facing audience when telling, turning pieces and facing audience again. If enough time, practice more poems.

Week 3: Reader's Theatre

Session 1:

Teacher demonstrates proper seating, voice volume, and holding scripts.
(Students were exposed to reader's theatre throughout the year during library lessons.)
Students form new groups and choose a story.
Students practice with their groups.

Session 2:

Students review elements of reader's theatre.
All students present.

Week 4: Puppets

Session 1:

Teacher demonstrates different kinds of puppets and puppetry techniques.
Students form pairs, and each choose a puppet.
Students develop a 1-minute script and practice.
Choose 2 pairs to present. Evaluate and make suggestions. (This is the most difficult presentation for the students to learn.)

Session 2:

Students practice and present puppets.
Students practice and review poems.

Optional Public Performance

Students may need to volunteer and commit to another practice session for an oral poetry presentation.

Examples:

Students have performed for parents in the library, volunteer dinner as entertainment, and part of PTO night.