



CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

Poet Tree: A Journal Activity for Field Trips

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

“Poet-Tree” gives students the opportunity to develop Language Arts skills by creating poetry. The students will review parts of speech, learn seven different forms of poems, and craft their own poem. This activity also encourages the students to think quietly about what they are experiencing as they observe their surroundings, or to explore their memories of the field trip.

This activity has been adapted from *Project Learning Tree* to better fit your field experience with the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The preparation for this exercise should be done before the trip, but the activity can be done during your field trip or back at school.

MATERIALS

- Student Journals or Paper
- Pencils or Pens
- Sample Poems

TIME

45-60 Minutes (Not including the field trip!)

ACTIVITY STEPS

1. Review with the students the major parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, participles, ect.) Write these on the chalkboard and have students generate a short list of examples under each category to make sure everyone understands.
2. Present some or all of the following poetic forms in the teacher background pages to the students. Tell the students that there are many other types as well.
3. Take a day to explore the wonders of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Contact the BLM at 541-618-2359 for suggestions on where to go.
4. Have students write their poems in the field or the next day in class. Before writing the poem, give students a few minutes to recall what they saw on their field trip or what they are seeing. As a group you can discuss what they might be seeing, smelling, or thinking. Encourage students to try different forms of poems. Provide the opportunity for students to share what they have written.
5. Further discussion can be generated about what type of poem they chose and why, how difficult or easy it was to write, or what they chose to write about. The poems can be collected and a book made out of them.

Background Information: *Poet Tree*

HAIKU is a Japanese form of poetry that consists of three lines: the first has five syllables, the second line has seven, and the third line has five again.

Example: Oak trees everywhere
 Full of oak galls and lichen
 Home to many things

CINQUAIN poems consist of five lines, each line having a mandatory purpose and number of syllables.

- 1) the title in two syllables
- 2) a description of the title in four syllables
- 3) a description of action in six syllables
- 4) a description of a feeling in eight syllables
- 5) another word for the title in two syllables.

Example: Hobart
 watching, guarding
 keeping track of below
 bring peace to my afternoon
 Bluff Trail

DIAMANTE poems are diamond-shaped and consist of seven lines in the following pattern:

 Noun
 adjective adjective
 participle participle participle
 noun noun noun noun
 participle participle participle
 adjective adjective
 noun

Example: Lizard
 fast scared
 running hiding bobbing
 alligator fence logs trail
 climbing warming smiling
 blue exciting
 wildlife

In **ACROSTIC** poetry, the first letter in each line, when read vertically, spells out the name of something or conveys some other kind of message.

Example: **F**un
 Lots of color
 Opening
 Wonderful
 Energy
 Radiant
 So many!

Background Information: *Poet Tree*

The words in **PICTURE POETRY** form a picture of what is happening in the poem or what the poem is about.

Example: Cloud poem

We are high
but they are higher yet. Up above us
floating with the osprey.
Soft white clouds on the big blue sky.
Free to roam where they
want. No trails for
them.

A **WINDSPARK** poem has five lines with the following pattern:

1) "I dreamed.."	Example:	I dreamed
2) "I was.." (Something or someone)		I was a pioneer
3) where		Here long ago
4) an action		Discovering the Monument
5) how		Cautiously

FREE VERSE follows no set of formula or style.

Example:

I stare
up from the ground
I see
giants trees above me
I fly from flower to flower
A butterfly am I
Wings of spotted orange and black
Fluffy
I live
In the Monument