

Ideas for Creating the Poetry Center

The poetry center gives students the opportunity to explore language, rhythm, and rhyme.

Select and assemble a collection of appropriate poems. In the center, include highlighters for students to highlight rhyming words in the poem. Also consider providing poems that relate to a theme, topic, poet, or season you are teaching in class.

Re-reading a poem for fluency and highlighting rhyming words most likely will not take the entire center time; therefore, prepare some extension activities such as these:

- Ask students to circle all the capital letters and periods in the poem.
- Have students circle any rhyming words using the same shape for each rhyme (e.g., a circle for each word in one pair/set of rhyming words, a square for each word in another pair/set of rhyming words, and so forth).
- Have students write about the poem they read. What was their favorite part? What were their favorite words?
- Ask students to draw a picture to match the poem.
- Have students add the copied poem to their own poetry folder or binder. Invite students to read and share past poems with others in the group to work on reading fluency.