

learning activity

POEMS PUT TO USE

**Future9
Competency**



Learn with Purpose,
Read the World

**Time
Recommended**



60+ Minutes

**Learning
Strategies**



Connect, Visualize,
Imagine

**Learning
Cycle Stage**



Make Meaning



DESCRIPTION

This activity, adapted from Poetry Out Loud (www.poetryoutloud.org), helps learners to imagine how memorizing lines of poetry can be useful in their lives. Through this process, learners gain an appreciation for poetry and its relevance in improving their writing.

MATERIALS

- Examples of poetry used in practical situations
- Prose piece for modeling
- Prose pieces written by learners
- Selection of poetry anthologies

PREPARATION

- Access the Poetry Out Loud CD (cue tracks 7 and 17) or examples of the use of poetry in history, literature, or film. Consider examples such as Claude McKay's "If We Must Die" or J.R.R. Tolkien's use of poetry in "The Shadow of the Past" chapter in *Lord of the Rings*.
- Gather a selection of high-quality and diverse poetry anthologies.



1

Play Recordings and Engage in Discussion

Play recordings or read full or partial poems being used in practical situations. Lead a discussion using questions such as: "Why might someone choose to recite poetry in certain situations?" "What types of poems or lines seem best suited for particular moments?" and "How does reciting poetry differ from regular conversation?"

2

Model Activity

Model identifying a meaningful passage from a poem and incorporating it into a piece of prose. Show how a poetic line can deepen the emotional or thematic impact of a narrative or personal reflection. Think aloud to explain how the poetry enhances the writing and strengthens the overall message.

3

Find Meaningful Passages

Instruct learners to explore the anthologies provided and select at least three passages of poetry that resonate with them. Encourage them to look for lines that are interesting, powerful, or meaningful, and consider how these passages might add depth to their own writing.

4

Incorporate Passages into Prose

Have learners incorporate their passages into a short piece of prose. Encourage them to think critically about how the poetic lines influence the tone, theme, or message of their writing and how the lines enhance the overall quality of the writing.

5

Share and Reflect

Ask learners to share their written pieces and reflect on their learning using the following questions:

- *What did you learn about the process of integrating poetry into prose?*
- *How did reflecting on poetry enhance your writing?*
- *What other types of writing or real-life situations could you use poetic lines to improve your message?*

