

Our Montessori Home

Poem of the Month

Creating a Poetry Corner

You don't need a lot of space to have a poetry corner. We use an end table to hold our poetry board, basket of children's poetry books, and a box containing pictures of key words in the poem.

If you don't have a space to display your board, you could always keep it in a closet, behind/under a shelf or couch, or cut a poster board in half. Check out a few poetry books from the library and leave them with the rest of your stack of library books.

How to Make a Poetry Board

Materials: foam or regular poster board, scissors or paper trimmer, tape, 2 sheets of page protectors, laminator (optional)

Directions: To make our poetry board, I used a foam poster board. I cut, laminated, and then taped the Poem of the Month, The Poet, and The Poem labels to the board.

I put the poem in a page protector sheet and cut off the edge that goes in a binder. I used double-sided tape to stick it to the board. I cut the second page protector sheet to about 4.5" - 5" for the poet section. To secure the open end, I put double-sided tape between the edges of the sheets. Then, I cut a .5" strip of construction paper to cover the tape on each edge. This way I can switch the poem and the poet sheets out monthly

For the key word pictures, I printed them on cardstock, cut, and laminated them to ensure durability.

Learning the Poem

When I introduce a new poem, I share the poem's name, the poet, and then read the brief biography. Then, I take out the key word picture cards and introduce each one. Keep the language simple, "The bird on the branch is perch."

I'll recite the poem once and the second time invite the children to say it with me. Then we'll say just the first stanza again.

As the boys are putting away the cards and the poetry work, I'll repeat the poem a last time. This way they are hearing it and becoming more familiar with the poem without having to try and say it each time. As they learn the poem, oftentimes they begin to say it, voluntarily, along with me. We aim to learn a stanza a week.

Resources

- *Poetry Foundation* -
 - [Biography](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/emily-dickinson), <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/emily-dickinson>
 - [Poem XIX Video](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/video/287), <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/features/video/287>
- *Wikipedia* - [Emily Dickinson Biography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Dickinson), http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emily_Dickinson
- *Clip Art* - All clip art, unless otherwise noted, is from the [Open Clip Art Library](#).
- *Poet Image* - The image of Emily Dickinson is used under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share](#). [Amherst College Archives & Special Collections](#) is the original owner of this image.

September

XIX

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm

I've heard it in the chillest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Author Bio

Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Massachusetts on December 10, 1830 and died there on May 15, 1886. Dickinson was an American poet. She lived a quiet life and wrote over 1,000 poems. Her poems were unique for her time. They contained short lines, used unusual capitalization and punctuation, and imperfect rhyme. She wrote often about nature, beauty, life, and death. She didn't become famous for her poetry until after her death.

Talking Points - What is hope? What do you think hope is?

Other Poems by Emily Dickinson - Because I Could Not Stop for Death, If I Can Stop, Behind me dips Eternity

For more information on Emily Dickinson, visit:
www.emilydickinsonmuseum.org



Emily Elizabeth Dickinson

December 10, 1830 - May 15, 1886

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