

# Teaching Poetry Writing

**LANGUAGE PLAY ACTIVITIES** generate myriad methods for playing with words and discovering the “surprise” inherent in writing poems.

- Found Poems
- Two word poems
- Circle poems
- Sandwich poems
- Cut up or refrigerator magnet poems
- Exquisite corpse poems
- Add a word poems
- Poetry generator activity
- Ink blot or paint smudge poem
- Cut and paste freewrites to create poems
- Write from a greeting card
- Interview poem
- Translate a foreign language into a poem

**WORKING FROM MODELS** generate poetry by carefully following a model poem either through structure, theme, or rhythm.

- Haiku—extended image poem
- Cinquain
- List poem
- Inside poems/ Outside poems/ Inside Outside poems
- Object poems
- Free verse poems as models: studying movement
- Formal poems as models: studying meter, rhyme
- Visual or sound poems: concrete poem, quick writes

**WRITING FROM EXPERIENCE** allows the writers to move more deeply into their lives and to examine their lives as a source for poetry.

- Memory poems
- Phantom or persona poems
- Writing from artwork or music
- Writing from photos
- Body poems
- Powerful event poems
- Dream poems
- Place poems
- Exaggeration poems
- Animal poems
- Cliché poems