

## Literacy Tips



Tips for middle school educators on various topics such as grammar, writing, reading, spelling, vocabulary, cooperative learning and more.

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### Tip #55: Technology & Poetry Plus One!

#### *Poetry Slam*

Yes, National Poetry Month just ended, but that doesn't mean you should stop infusing poetry into your curriculum. In fact, you might want to channel all that end-of-the-year student energy into performance art and have them participate in a Poetry Slam. Highland Tech, one of our newest charter schools, has a Tele-Poetry Slam scheduled for May 14 at 2 PM. [Attached is an informational sheet](#) with all that you will need to know. Help get this 1st annual event off the ground by signing up your students now.

[www.kigluaitadventures.com/programs.html#slam](http://www.kigluaitadventures.com/programs.html#slam)

#### *Informal Poetry Slam*

Ok, maybe you don't have the energy to organize and pull off a tele-poetry slam right now, but what about hosting an informal one of your own? Here is a great web site from the Web English Teacher that can offer you some tips and tricks for doing this.

[www.webenglishteacher.com/poetryslam.html](http://www.webenglishteacher.com/poetryslam.html)

#### *Pop Culture Haiku*

Najia Stallworth (Clark 8th grade LA teacher) shared with me a web site where her students morphed traditional haiku into pop culture haiku. Many of her students' haikus were submitted to this web site and are there for

your reading pleasure. As with any web site, you will want to preview it to make sure you are comfortable with its content.

<http://popculture.com>

#### *Magnetic Poetry*

Magnetic Poetry is a great way to get students looking at word choice more closely. Perhaps you have seen these kits sold in stores. If not, the following web site is a place where you can order some of these kits or actually have students play with magnetic poetry on-line. Be sure to look at the educator's link for other helpful resources. So sign your students up for the computer lab next week and let them dabble with Magnetic Poetry on-line!

[www.magneticpoetry.com](http://www.magneticpoetry.com)

#### *Poetry Immersion*

Here's one last quick idea which involves no technology whatsoever! (Thanks to Jane Gray at Clark for sharing this with me.) You will need 30 - 35 poetry books from your friendly librarian and a bunch of sticky notes. Spend a class period just immersing students in poetry. Tell students that they will be reading as many poetry books as possible during the class period. They will be spending just a few minutes with each book before they will be asked to pass the book onto the next person. Give each student only three sticky notes and



tell them that they can use these to mark their three favorite poems during the period. Because you limit the number of choices a student can have, they really guard their sticky notes and evaluate more carefully what they read. Jane told me that her students often wrote comments on the sticky note like "You've got to read this one" or "This one is so funny!" And of course, those were the poems that students went to immediately when they got their next book passed to them.



## **First Annual Alaska Students Tele-Poetry Slam (Contest)**

Hosted by Highland Tech High partnered with GCI, and Kigluait Educational Adventures

### **Program Description:**

This project entails the creating of a statewide Poetry Slam in a Café environment using VC technology to connect students from Highland Tech High and other videoconference Alaskan schools. Students will create poetry about any choice of topic having to do with personal to global concerns and will be encouraged to base their poetry on their interactions with Taking it Global (<http://www.takingitglobal.org>), in efforts to incorporate other students from around the world in the future. Student's poetry will be presented during a videoconference café, in which a coffee house will be created and the community invited to view and/or participate in the poetry slam, if not compete for a donated prize. At completion students will compile their projects and submit them to Taking It Global and/ or Kigluait Adventures.

### **What is a Poetry Slam?**

"Simply put, poetry slam is the competitive art of performance poetry. It puts a dual emphasis on writing and performance, encouraging poets to focus on what they're saying and how they're saying it. A poetry slam is an event in which poets perform their work and are judged by members of the audience. Typically, the host or another organizer select the judges, who are instructed to give numerical scores (on a zero to 10 or one to 10 scale) based on the poet's content and performance. (Poetry Slam Inc. (n.d.). Retrieved April 15, 2004, from:

[http://www.poetryslam.com/modules.php?name=FAQ&myfaq=yes&id\\_cat=1&categories=Poetry+Slam+Inc./](http://www.poetryslam.com/modules.php?name=FAQ&myfaq=yes&id_cat=1&categories=Poetry+Slam+Inc./)

### **Program Date and Time:**

May 14th at 2:00 p.m. (Alaska Time)

### **Program Rules:**

- 1-Each poet must perform an original work.
- 2-The poem should not exceed 3 minutes (go over and you lose points)
- 3-No costumes
- 4-No music
- 5-No Props

**Judging:**

Five volunteers chosen from outside of any participating school will serve as judges for the Slam.

Judges are instructed to evaluate both the content and the performance of the poem.

Judges are encouraged to stay consistent, and to leave their prejudice at the door (with the exception of the prejudice about giving bad poetry low scores and good poetry good scores).

They score poems on a scale from 0.0 to 10.0, the high and low scores are dropped, as well as any time penalty, leaving a final score ranging from 0 to 30.

The highest scoring poet receives not only the adrenaline rush that accompanies victory, but also a cash prize.

**Who May Participate:**

7-12th Grade Students (if there are more than 10 participants, then your school should hold a preliminary round in advance to select 10 representatives for your school)

**Cost:**

FREE

**Prizes:**

To be announced

**How to enroll to participate:**

Email to Christina Hum: [crhum@kigluaitadventures.com](mailto:crhum@kigluaitadventures.com) or complete the form at <http://www.kigluaitadventures.com/poetryslam.html> with the following information:

Name:

Email:

Telephone Contact:

Number of Students:

Age/ Grade Level:

**Standards:**

Based on Alaska State Standards, See the Web Page:

<http://www.kigluaitadventures.com/programs.html> for more details.