

Welcome to Thinkport's Student Activity Center! Your teacher has directed you to this student activity to help you learn more about the topic you are studying.

Title: The Noble Art of Poetry

Audience: Middle

Duration: 50 Minutes

Subject Area(s):

Language Arts - Literature

Grade Level(s): 6,7,8,9

Student Directions:

How do you define the art of poetry? Today you will have an opportunity to compare your thoughts on poetry with those of Poe.

Directions: What is a good poem? Brainstorm key words that describe how you define poetry and write them in the boxes of the "My Definition of Poetry" graphic organizer.

My Definition of Poetry graphic organizer ([View](#))

Directions: As you listen to the Poe video clip you are responsible for identifying what Poe thought about poetry and its creation. Click on the link below. Play the video of John Astin reading Poe's ideas on poetry using the play arrow. As you listen to the ideas, write down words that describe how Poe defines poetry on the Poe's Definition of Poetry graphic organizer.

Knowing Poe video clip

Poe shares his ideas and definition of poetry in this video clip featuring John Astin.

<http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/writer/poetic.asp>

How did Poe define poetry?

Poe's Definition of Poetry graphic organizer ([View](#))

Directions: Discuss the following questions in your small group.

Discussion Questions:

- How did Poe define poetry?
- How does Poe's definition of poetry compare with the definition that you wrote?
- Do you agree with Poe that a poem can be a rhythmical creation of beauty?
- Do you think it is important for people to define poetry? Explain.
- Do you think people would ever agree on a single definition of poetry? Explain.
- Like Poe, have you ever read a poem that you felt was created in heaven? Explain.

Directions: As you view the Poetic Principle interactive you are responsible for deciding if you agree or disagree with Poe's thoughts on poetry. Click on the link below. Start the interactive. Complete the "Poetic Principle My Criteria" worksheet as you go through the interactive.

Knowing Poe: The Poetic Principle

Poe was recognized as one of the finest literary critics of his day. This interactive uses Poe's The Poetic Principle to share Poe's thoughts on poetry and its creation. The interactive component of the Web page allows students to compare their thoughts on poetry with Poe's.

<http://knowingpoe.thinkport.org/writer/poetic.asp>

What was Poe's definition of the perfect poem?

Directions: As you read each of Poe's Poetic Principles decide if you agree or disagree with what Poe says. Place a check beside your decision on the interactive. Then use your highlighter to highlight your decision on your "Poetic Principle My Criteria" worksheet.

Poetic Principle My Criteria [\(View\)](#)

Directions: Using your worksheets "My Definition of Poetry graphic organizer" and "Poetic Principle My Criteria" write your own definition of poetry.

My Definition of Poetry writing prompt [\(View\)](#)

- After the five principles on the Poetic Principle interactive you will be given the chance to read poems that Poe considered having all the elements of a true poem.
- After reading the poems click next. You will then see a list of all the criteria you have chosen to be important.

- Click next to read a famous poem written by Edgar Allan Poe. Review Poe's poem "Annabel Lee" using the criteria from your "Poetic Principle My Criteria" worksheet. For each principle give the poem a score with 5 being the highest and 0 being the lowest. Give an explanation for each score using details from the principle and text support from the poem.

Directions: Now you will take on the role of Edgar Allan Poe to review a poem of your choice. Choose one of the poetry links below to find the poem you have chosen. Complete the "Poetic Principle Poe's Criteria" by giving the poem a score for each of Poe's principles. Write an explanation for each score that includes details from the principle and text support from the poem.

Poetic Principle Poe's Criteria ([View](#))

Poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson

A complete online collection of poems by Robert Louis Stevenson searchable by title.

http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/stevenson/stevenson_ind.html

How would Robert Louis Stevenson's poems measure up according to Poe's Poetic Principle?

Poetry by Rudyard Kipling

A complete online collection of poems by Rudyard Kipling searchable by title.

http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/kipling/kipling_ind.html

How would Rudyard Kipling's poems measure up according to Poe's Poetic Principle?

Find a Poem

An online listing of more than twelve hundred poems searchable by title, keyword, or first line of poem.

<http://www.poets.org/poems/search.cfm>

How does your favorite poem measure up according to Poe's Poetic Principle?

Directions: Using your scores from "Poetic Principle Poe's Criteria" write a review of your chosen poem. Then write a review of the same poem using your own criteria.

Poetry Review ([View](#))

Activity Signature

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