## Teacher Lesson Plan 2

#### **Objectives:**

- summarize a poem
- determine the theme of a poem

Materials: What Does This Poem Mean? Student Worksheet, teacher-selected poem for class analysis

#### Possible poems:

- "Life Doesn't Frighten Me" by Maya Angelou
- "Your World" by Georgia Douglas Johnson

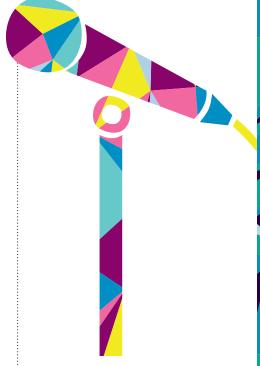
**Time:** one 40-minute class period

**Essential Question:** How does analyzing a poem help us to understand it better?

## **Lesson Steps:**

- 1 Explain to students that poetry is a way that writers express themselves. We often understand poetry better if we read or hear it several times and analyze it, or look closely at the meaning.
- **Display** the selected poem, either written on chart paper or projected on a screen.

- Read the poem out loud once to model fluent reading, then have students read the poem out loud to a partner.
- 4 Explain that understanding what happens in the poem is the first step in analyzing poetry. As a class, paraphrase the poem, either by assigning each stanza to a small group of students or by completing a think-aloud as a whole class.
- If necessary, stop to define any terms in the poem that are unfamiliar to students.
- of the poem is an important step in analyzing it. Reread the poem, focusing on the question "What type of feeling or mood does this poem have?" Use think-pair-share to collect students' ideas. Invite students to circle the words or punctuation marks that helped create the mood of the poem.
- **7** Reread the poem, focusing on the question "What message is this poem sending?" Use think-pair-share to collect students' ideas, and mark the words and phrases that support the theme.



8 Have students complete the What Does This Poem Mean? Student Worksheet to apply these skills to a new poem.

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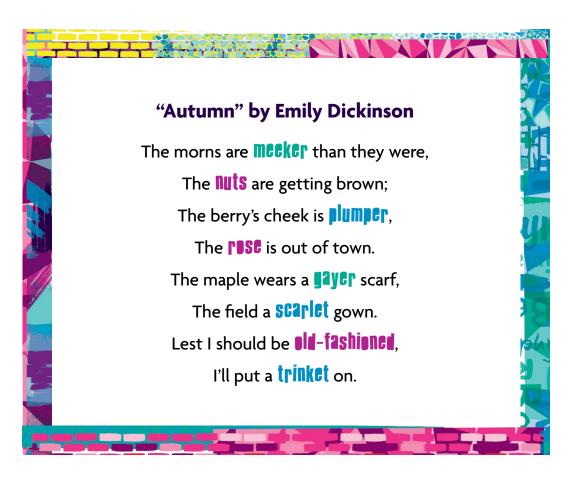
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# WHAT DOES THIS POOM MEAN?

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) was an American writer who used poetry to express herself. Read her poem "Autumn" and answer the questions about the meaning of the poem.



- 1 Read the poem one time. What happens in this poem?
- 2 Read the poem again. Circle three descriptive words. What moods or feelings do these words give the poem?
- 3 Read the poem one more time. Put a star next to two details that gave you a clue about the person speaking. What do these clues tell you about the speaker and what she is speaking about?
- 4 What do you think is the message or theme of the poem? Why?