

CURIOSITY FOCUS LESSON

Curiosity Poems

By incorporating super readers' questions about the world in poems, you can encourage them to think deeply about topics that make them curious and spark their desire to read to find out more.

Directions

1. Introduce the lesson by saying:

Think about the world around you. Do you ever find yourself asking questions, such as "Why is the sky blue?" or "Why is the grass green?" or "What if I had been born in a different country?" Those kinds of questions keep us wondering and learning all the time. Today we are going to take our questions and turn them into poems, and then turn them into art!

2. Ask students to think about questions they might have about their world.

You can say:

Think about your world. What is one thing you are interested in? If you could ask one question about that thing, what would it be? Take a moment and try to pick one question that really gets you thinking!

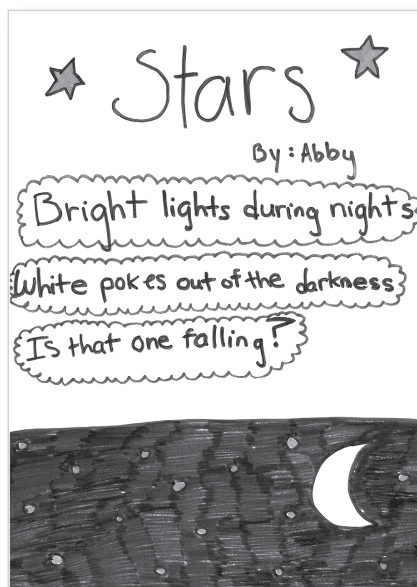
3. Invite each student to write a poem based on his or her question. You can say:

Now we are going to turn our questions into poems! You can write any type of poem you like, rhyming or no rhyme, short or long! Any type of poem you come up with is great, as long as it asks a question about the thing you are interested in.

If a student struggles to write a poem, suggest that he or she use the question as the first line of the poem, or as the title.

4. Have students decorate their work any way they choose. Depending on what materials you have, they may create drawings, cut and glue images, and do anything else to make their poems even more exciting.

5. Once students have finished writing and decorating, have them share the poems with others. Depending on the size of your class and the amount of time you have, you may invite people to come up and share with everyone, or do a "turn and talk" with a partner.



6. Lead a discussion about the activity with students. Ask them questions such as:
 - How did it feel to write a poem about a topic you are curious about? Was it hard or easy? Why?
 - Did writing this poem spark any more questions for you about your topic?
 - Did you learn anything about one of your classmates or the topic of the poem after listening to his or her poem?
 - How can you find out more about your topic? (Encourage students to be specific. e.g., “a website about pandas” vs. “the Internet.”)
7. Display students’ poetry proudly! You can have a “Question Wall” where you celebrate the curiosity within all of your students.
8. As an extension activity, provide students the opportunity to seek answers to their questions in books and online.

Actions to Promote Curiosity in School and in Out-of-School Programs

Wonder Walk	Bring a tablet or notebook and teach children how to take notes on a walk to document wonderings and observations.
Book Club	Create a book club centered around topics that make children wonder.
Author Questions	Keep a running list of questions children would love to ask the authors of their favorite books.
Curiosity Tour	Have each child pick one question they have about the world and then go to the library together to find out answers.
Three Stories	Ask children to go around in a group and share three stories; two stories are true and one is untrue. The other children have to find out which story is untrue.
20 Questions	Play a game where one student stands in the center of a circle and picks someone to be like an animal or famous athlete. The student acts this out and the rest of the group has to figure out what or who the student is by asking yes/no questions. If the group does that before 20 questions, they win the round.