

## Poetry Reading Strategies

**Preview** the poem by reading the title and paying attention to the poem's form: shape on the page, stanzas, number of lines and ending punctuation.

**Read poem aloud several times** to hear rhyme, rhythm, and the overall sound of the poem. This makes it easier to understand the poem.

**Visualize the images** by paying close attention to strong verbs, and comparisons in poem. Do the images remind you of anything? Let the comparisons paint a picture in your head.

**Clarify words and phrases** by allowing yourself to find the meaning of words or phrases that stand out, are repeated, or you do not understand the meaning. Use dictionary, context clues, teacher or peer.

**Evaluate the poem's theme** by asking what message is the poet trying to send or help you understand? Does it relate to your life in any way?