



# poetry is my power

Exploring Poetry • Fostering Creativity • Building Confidence

Grades 3–5

[scholastic.com/poetryismypower](http://scholastic.com/poetryismypower)

STUDENT  
POETRY  
CONTEST!

Deadline:  
April 30, 2017

Dear Teacher,

**Poetry** is a powerful type of writing that helps us express ourselves freely. Encourage your students in grades 3–5 to explore this effective means of expression with **Poetry Is My Power**, a new ELA program from Scholastic and American Girl®. Inspired by **Gabriela™**, American Girl's 2017 Girl of the Year™, **Poetry Is My Power** offers lessons and worksheets that support higher learning standards and engage students in an examination of the fundamental elements of **poems** as well as the tools to create their own **spoken word poetry**. When your students have prepared their **poems**, enter them in the **EXPRESS YOURSELF POETRY CONTEST** so they'll have a chance to win an **American Girl 2017 Girl of the Year Gabriela Collection** OR a **\$400 Scholastic Gift Card**—plus a **\$100 Amex Gift Card for the teacher!**

Visit [scholastic.com/poetryismypower](http://scholastic.com/poetryismypower) for additional free classroom poetry resources and **more**.

Made possible by:

 American Girl®

# Teacher Lesson Plan

## Objectives:

- identify ways that poetry can be a form of self-expression
- explore characteristics of spoken word poetry

**Materials:** student-friendly spoken word poetry video, chart paper, **Express Yourself** Student Worksheet, classroom poster (included)

**Time:** one 45-minute class period

**Essential Question:** How can poetry help me to express myself?

## Lesson Steps:

- 1 Brainstorm** what students already know about poetry.
- 2 Ask** students if they have heard of spoken word poetry. Explain that spoken word poetry is a powerful form that is meant to be performed.
- 3 Show** students a video example of spoken word poetry. (Due to the content and language of many spoken word performances, be sure to preview any video examples to ensure they are appropriate for your students.)
- 4 Invite** students to share their impressions of this art form and what made the performance powerful.
- 5** As a class, **create** a “Looks Like” and “Sounds Like” chart for the spoken word poetry performance. (For example, the “Looks Like” column might include gestures, facial expressions, body language, and posture. The “Sounds Like” column might include sharing personal experiences, changing tone of voice, speed, and volume.) Refer to the poem *Crisscross* on the poster for a poem the class can analyze together. For additional lessons about analyzing and writing poetry, visit [scholastic.com/poetryismypower](http://scholastic.com/poetryismypower).
- 6 Pose** this question to your class: “How do you express yourself?” Allow students to share their responses with a partner, then invite students to share them with the entire class. As a class, write categories on the board showing how the students expressed themselves, such as through physical activity, creativity, and humor.
- 7 Explain** to students that they will now have a chance to write a poem about how they express themselves. Direct students to write a draft of a poem for homework, review it in class with their peers, and then write and decorate the final draft in the space provided on the accompanying activity sheet. (In order to generate ideas, some students may want to start by making a list of special qualities that they have.)
- 8 Invite** students to perform their poems in front of the class. Allow students to practice ahead of time, referring to the “Looks Like” and “Sounds Like” chart for support.
- 9** To **help** your students’ poems reach a larger audience, consider entering their poems into the **Express Yourself Poetry Contest**.



Also visit [scholastic.com/american-girl](http://scholastic.com/american-girl) to check out the Gabriela™ book.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

# Express Yourself THROUGH POETRY!

Writing **poetry** is a way to share what is really on your mind.

There is no wrong way to write a **poem**!

Write a **poem** that answers this question: How do you **express** yourself?

After you write and edit a draft of your poem, write and decorate your **poem** in the space below.



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

EXPRESS YOURSELF POETRY CONTEST

How do your students express themselves?

For a chance to win, encourage your students to write an original poem using the poem form template (available at [scholastic.com/poetryismypower](http://scholastic.com/poetryismypower)) that addresses the Contest question: **“How do you express yourself?”** Entries must be handwritten on the poem form template and can be up to 100 words.

Entries will only be accepted via mail and must be postmarked by 4/30/2017 and received by 5/8/2017. In order for poems to be eligible for entry, they must be stapled to a complete entry form (see below).

If you are submitting entries on behalf of multiple students, you may use only one single entry form.

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Originality and creativity (How well does the entry demonstrate creativity and originality? How well does the entry address the Contest’s theme? Is the poem unique and creative?) **(50 points)**
- Quality of entry (Is the idea communicated clearly? Is the poem well organized?) **(35 points)**
- Grammar and spelling (Does the entry reflect proper grammar and spelling?) **(15 points)**

3 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS	STUDENT PRIZE	TEACHER PRIZE
	\$400 Scholastic Gift Card OR American Girl® Gabriela™ Collection	\$100 Amex Gift Card

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2017

MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND POEMS TO **EXPRESS YOURSELF POETRY CONTEST**, Attn: Ted Lattis, 557 Broadway, NY, NY 10012.

Complete the Entry Form

Please fill out the form below and make sure each participating student includes their name, teacher, school, and grade on the *Express Yourself Through Poetry* worksheet.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School City: \_\_\_\_\_ School State: \_\_\_\_\_ School Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a **parent** entering on behalf of your child, please also fill out the section below.

Parent’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. The Express Yourself Poetry Contest (the “Contest”) is open to students in grades 3–5 who are enrolled in public schools, accredited private schools, or home schools in compliance with the laws of the students’ primary state of residence (“Schools”) and who are legal residents of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia (hereinafter referred to as “Student” or “Students”). Entries must be submitted on behalf of the students by teachers of any grade from 3–5, who currently teach in public schools, accredited private schools, or home schools in compliance with the laws of their primary state of residence, or by parents or legal guardians. Official Rules at [scholastic.com/poetryismypower](http://scholastic.com/poetryismypower)



SCHOLASTIC and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved. © 2017 American Girl. All rights reserved. American Girl and associated trademarks are owned by and used under license from American Girl.



# poetry is my power

Poetry is a powerful type  
of writing that helps us  
express ourselves freely.

## Crisscross

My mind spins 'round

Feet fly forward one, two, three  
Five, six, seven, **here comes eight**  
I'm flying, flipping, floating free

Do you feel that?

Can you hear that?

**Two dozen hands**  
**Two dozen feet**

Two dozen shoulders, knees, eyebrows, and toes  
Silently shouting what my heart has always known

### STRUCTURE

Do you know  
why we call this  
"free verse"?

### SOUND PATTERNS

Can you spot the  
alliteration?

### MEANING

What examples  
of strong **figurative**  
**language** can you  
find here?

POEM IS EXCERPTED FROM *GABRIELA* BY  
TERESA E. HARRIS, PUBLISHED BY SCHOLASTIC.



Made possible by:

★ American Girl