



## **Wednesdays in the Woods Activity:** Nature poetry

### **Materials Needed:**

- Writing utensil, paper, and a surface to write on
- Hand lens or jar for collecting a few items from outdoors (optional)

### **Instructions:**

1. Go outdoors and spend some time looking for an object or setting that interests you. Use your senses to make observations. Decide what the object or setting reminds you of; what do you wonder?
2. Write down some notes or words that come to mind when you make your observations.
3. Write some lines or sentences about what you observed, using the notes or words you wrote down. Pick a title – it can be mysterious or it can convey exactly what you observed. This is your poem! You could share it out loud with a tree, pet, family member, or nobody.

### **Reflective Questions:**

- How does looking at something, talking about it, and writing about it differ?
- If someone wrote a poem about you, what details would they include; that is, what would they notice or wonder about *you*?

### **Extensions of this activity**

- You could write a poem without a title and see if someone can guess what you wrote about by your description.
- Write an *acrostic* poem: write a word vertically on a piece of paper and then write a sentence or phrase for each letter of the word.

- Write poetry using media besides pencil and paper; for instance, try writing poetry in the mud, in the sand, or with fingerpaints!

## Resource

Ferra, Lorraine, and Diane Boardman. *A Crow Doesn't Need a Shadow: A Guide to Writing Poetry from Nature*. Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith Books, 1994. Print.

## Sample poems

### Observation poem

by Hannah Raymond

#### Daffodils

Yellow tissues, freshly churned butter, spring's perfume  
    Drooping trumpets gathered 'round  
Vases in Grandma's window are begging to be filled  
    With these fragrant bursts of cheer

### Acrostic poem

by Hannah Raymond

**D**ancers in the breeze  
**A**n astonishing array of yellows  
**F**lourishing in wetlands  
**F**orgotten as soon as the lilacs bloom  
**O**pening in sunshine  
**D**utifully planted in autumn  
**I**ndifferent to spring storms  
**L**ittle clusters of joy

## Squished by a curious deer