

POEMS FOR PRACTICE

Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper • list of topics to be reviewed
Appeal	This activity pushes students into the highest level of critical thinking: creativity. They each have the chance to look at reviewed material in a new way as they apply the material learned to a creative literary product.
Time	45 minutes
Players	The whole class participates as individuals.
Directions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assign students a review topic of some kind. This could be a larger topic or something as small as a term, individual, place, book character, etc. You may choose to assign all students a separate topic or give them all the same topic. You can also consider having students generate the list of topics for the class to use. 2. Direct students to write a short poem that reviews the key information they feel anyone should know about their assigned topic. It is not important that the poem rhymes, but it must show that the students have knowledge of the topic. 3. Students should then annotate their poem, underlining the information they feel is key for anyone to know and leaving notes next to their annotations explaining why that piece of information is so important to an understanding of the overall topic. Make sure students know your expectations for how many pieces of information should be underlined in each poem.
Hints	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose topics that students can connect to emotionally, such as books or book characters or historical events with great emotional significance. • Publish student poems in the school newspaper, or display them on a school-wide bulletin board.

Example The Wonders of the Book *Wonder*

He's amazing, Auggie is
The way he navigates
A world not built for him

A world that sees his faults before his strengths
A world that wants him to just be the Same
To stop being so different all the time
(It makes their lives harder)

They're amazing, Auggie's friends
The people who realize
What's outside is meaningless
What's inside is what matters
The people who are finally able to see
How beautiful Auggie is

Auggie has a disease that causes his face to look different from other people's faces.

When Auggie first goes to school, people don't want to be friends with him right away because he looks so different. Some people even make fun of him.

Summer is one of Auggie's first real friends. She's nice to him even when a lot of other people aren't.

Jack Will has a hard time ignoring what other people say about Auggie, even though he likes Auggie. He makes fun of Auggie one day when he thinks Auggie can't hear. Eventually, Jack realizes that he likes Auggie for who he is.

