



The Poetry of Agriculture

Grade Level: 2-8
Language Arts

Time: One class period;
30 minutes.

Materials:

- Assortment of 4-8 agriculture commodities (i.e., nuts, wheat, eggs, flowers, cherries),
- Bags
- Slips of paper

Description:

Students will sharpen their observation, listening and identification skills through a poetry and writing exercise that features items from agriculture.

Directions:

- 1) Collect a group of items from the natural, agricultural world. For example, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, pumpkins, or apples.
- 2) Place the items at stations around your room. Assign a number to each item and place a bag next to it with several slips of paper. Write the corresponding number on the bag to match the station.
- 3) Explain to the class that agriculture/nature has long inspired artists and writers in their work. Read aloud some poetry about different flowers, plants, or animals.
- 4) Explain to the class that they will each visit the stations around the room and record their first impressions of each agricultural product.
- 5) Ask each student (students can also work in pairs) to write a single word or short phrase on a slip of paper and place it in the station's bag. Encourage them to record whatever stands out about the item—perhaps something reminds them of its color, shape, smell, or feel. Have them use their senses.
- 5) Once everyone has had a chance to visit all of the stations, have students work in small groups. Give each a bag. Explain that they will be using the words and phrases inside the bag to create a piece of poetry or prose about their item. They should not mention the item by name.
- 6) From their writing, the rest of class must guess what each group wrote about.



Adapted from *Project Seasons* by D. Parrella.