

A green ribbon and a pink ribbon are positioned to the left of the title, curving upwards and downwards respectively.

CHILDREN'S Poetry Party

By Kimberly M. Hutmacher
and
Madison M. Hutmacher



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A Note to the teacher

My goal with this book is to get children excited and inspired to try their hands at different forms of poetry. I want them to see these lessons as an opportunity to have fun! I want them to free their minds, delve into the core of their imaginations, discover new words and new ways of viewing the world around them- but most of all, have fun!

One of the best ways I know of to have fun, is to have a party. So that is exactly what we're going to do in this book. We're going to meet interesting and exciting new friends in the poetry forms that we explore! We're going to mingle. By that, I mean that we're going to discover their definitions, share some examples and leap into poetry of our own!

One of the best ways to ruin a party, is to put pressure and expectations on your guests. If you want an invitation to this party, all pressure and expectations must be left at the door. I purposely do not cover the rules of rhythm and meter in this book, because I feel that the more children are exposed to great poetry, they will, over time, develop a natural ear for rhythm and meter on their own. In the early and middle elementary years, we want to introduce children to these new friends (forms of poetry). Free from pressure, they should be allowed to play with these forms and build a strong, loving relationship with words and their beautiful possibilities.

I also think this process should be free of intimidation. By that, I mean that sample lessons of poetry in workbooks written by adults can seem daunting to children. They may say to themselves that they can't possibly write a poem as well as a grown-up can. That's why all of the example poems in this book are written by my eight-year-old daughter, Madison. All are written in correct form, but they are written by a child. I will provide the background an instruction, and she'll provide the poetry goods!

I encourage you, as the teacher, to provide the introduction. Read some of the great poetry collections listed in the bibliography and have plenty on hand in your classroom library. Use the lessons in this book to introduce specific forms. Use the web site list to introduce your students to the great minds behind their favorite collections- the authors. Also, use the young author page to encourage your students to pursue publication of their work. There are many opportunities for children to see their names and creations in print. Most of all, approach every aspect of poetry with an open, unlimited mind and the expectation of fun!!

Enjoy the party!

Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Diamonte Poetry

Diamonte is the Italian word for diamond. When you've completed one of these poems, it should visually appear to be in the shape of a diamond. There are no rules for subject matter, but it should follow the following pattern:

Topic (**noun**)

Two describing words (**adjectives**)

Three action words (**verbs**)

A four-word phrase that evokes how you feel about the topic

Three more action words (**verbs**)

Two describing words (**adjectives**)

Synonym for the topic



Name _____

Date _____

Write Your Own Diamonte!

_____ (Topic)

_____ (adjectives)

_____ (verbs)

_____ (A four word descriptive phrase)

_____ (verbs)

_____ (adjectives)

_____ (synonym for topic)