

TUTOR TIPS for POETRY

BEFORE Reading:

If possible, recite or read one of your favorite poems. It can be short, simple, and silly...or a more meaningful one of your choice. It can even be one you wrote yourself. Tell the child that the important thing is NOT to necessarily understand it. The important thing is to try to be able to “feel it” as you read with expression.

Ask child:

- Do you have a favorite poem? A favorite poet? Have you ever written a poem?
- How do you feel about poetry, in general? Explain.

Explain what it means when words **rhyme = a word with an ending that sounds similar to the ending of another word**. Give or ask for an example, like (laughed / draft). Explain that rhyming words often are not spelled the same, but have endings that sound similar.

Skim through poem or poetry book. Ask (using illustrations if available):

- Do the poem(s) seem funny or serious?
- What do you think it/they might be about?
- Do you think the poem tells a story or just describes feelings?

Look for words that the child might not understand and explain a few.

Find some words at the end of lines that rhyme.

DURING Reading:

The tutor should read the poem aloud first, having the child notice the rhythm, or beat, of the poem. The child may even tap out the beat as the tutor reads.

Then, ask the child to read the poem aloud.

Coach the child in decoding unfamiliar words using phonic chunks, word families, accented syllables, and/or context.

Ask child to paraphrase in their own words certain lines to check for understanding.

AFTER Reading:

- Discuss:
 - What was this poem about? What was the poet trying to say? Poems express feelings. What feeling was the poet expressing?
 - What lines rhymed? Make a list of words that rhymed. Did any of the rhyming sounds have different spellings? What were they?
 - Did you like this poem? Why or why not?
- Together, think of and write 2 more rhyming lines (or another rhyming stanza) that could be added to the end of the poem?
- Play the “Rhyming Game” (attached) together with your child or with a group of children.