My Own Little Poem

Learning objectives
• Read a text, then write a summary and read it aloud.
• Explain how scenes fit together to provide smooth transitions, and how they form the fundamental structure of specific genres such as poems.
• Determine the theme of a story, drama, or poem.
• Identify the meaning of words and phrases used in a text, such as literal or non-literal and figurative language, used to describe significant characteristics.
• Demonstrate an understanding of rhyme.
• Explain how poems are constructed and the use of stanzas.
• Produce clear and coherent writing appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Setting the scene
• Read a poem aloud to the class and have the students identify rhyming words.
• Discuss the key details of the poem with the students.
• Talk about and identify the genre and characteristics of the poem.
• What is rhyme and how can it be used?
• What makes a good poem? What makes a bad poem?

Building the story
Ask the students to work in teams. Have them brainstorm ideas and create poems and rhymes. The poems can either form a story with a beginning, middle, and end or be based on a single scene structure.

Reflecting
These suggestions are designed to spark and encourage reflection:
• How are you identifying the characteristics of this genre?
• What would your single favorite scene be? What does that scene tell us?
• Point out verse and verse feet.

Common Core Standards
Speaking and Listening: 2-5.1
2-5.5
Reading for Literature: 2-5.2
2-5.4
2-5.5
Language: 2-5.5
Writing: 2-5.4
2-5.6
Sharing and documenting
Ask the students to point out the rhymes and verse feet and how their poems fall within a specific genre as they write.

Extending
• Use the StoryVisualizer software to publish your poem and add the necessary items to support the meaning of the poem. Practice reciting the poem and then present it to your class.

• Poets use language and words like artists use color. Choose one element of poetic language – rhyme, alliteration, or figurative language (similes, metaphors, idioms) – and write a poem focusing on this element.

• Imagine that you have been asked to write a poem or a jingle for a commercial. First, decide which product you will be advertising. Then, think about the point of view you will adapt; this could be from the angle of the consumer or the producer. Choose one of these points of view and write a poem or jingle for the commercial.