

## EFFECTIVE USAGE OF POETRY IN AN EFL CLASS ROOM

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### Abstract

Wordsworth says, “Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings; it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility”. Poetry becomes famous as it is able to move the heart of the reader. It’s a form of literature which stands for generations that uses a variety of words. Poetry can be taught in a classroom to teach several things. It uses phonaesthetics, sound symbolism, meter, pattern and rhyme which can evoke a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience or a specific emotional response. It can be written or spoken. It can be used to informally assess science and math. It can help students Poetry, like the other literary genres; can be fruitfully used as a model of language for teaching the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The reading and writing of poetry, classified as a literary activity, has helped to keep this form of linguistic expression out of the typical EFL classroom while many teachers agree that poetry promotes language acquisition. This paper attempts to state the effective usage of poetry in an EFL classroom as well as methods to teach poetry.

**Keywords:** Poetry, Teaching poetry, Using poetry, EFL classroom

### I. Introduction

While this might be true of poetry as a reading activity, however the use of poetry in the writing class can provide an effective and collaborative means of language learning and of personal expression. In an EFL classroom, teachers use picture poems, pattern poems and other poems can offer ways of making English a means of personal expression, creativity and improvement, helping to diminish emotional barriers in a nonthreatening learning environment. Popular songs and their scripts can also facilitate the progress of awareness of pronunciation, intonation and sentence flow. A broader perspective on the use of poetry in the language classroom can lead to meaningful and successful language learning. It is important that texts should provide good potential for a mixture of classroom activities in order to give students more chance to gain true familiarity with any work as a whole. Most importantly, the texts should be provided in a way to bring out the capability to engage the interest of the students.

## **Methods of Using Poetry in a Class Room**

Poetry can be taught successfully by establishing theme, focusing on specifics, stimulating students to write poetry, using of new perspectives and initiating inquisitiveness among students. Poetry is so flexible, which makes it a great form to use in the EFL classroom. There are so many types of poetry and so many different forms that eventually; each and every student is bound to find a poem or poet to proceed. Poetry can be used as a wonderful tool to make EFL classroom engaging, at the same time the choice of poem should be concentrated. Usually, teachers use a model of poetry through print text and guide them to explore meaning is a normal one. On the other hand, it is good to emphasis the importance of reciting and hearing the poem. If it is not pronounced with its real meaning, it would go waste. It is good to start by choosing small and simple poems which are not complex or with strong vocabulary but depending on the level of the students. Students will be able to find and explain the meaning of complex sonnets of Shakespeare or Chaucer. There are slight differences between short stories and short poems. A brief discussion on the differences between the two species initiates an interest among the students. Poems with specific language patterns or poems with identifiable rhyme schemes are a good choice. In spite of explaining by teachers, students should be made to work in pairs and should interpret or illustrate the meaning or outcome is appropriate. At that juncture, they will come out with different meanings. It is good to read them aloud and the loud reading makes one to understand different rhymes and mood of the poet should be expressed in proper reading with intonation. At the same time, reading with natural voice and giving a pause at the end of the line is the right option. Discussion on choice of vocabulary, teaching the students to give importance to build their vocabulary and they should be taught to maintain a methodology to learn new words. As their comfort level increases, it is appropriate to increase the level of learning.

## **Advantages of Using Poetry in an EFL Classroom**

Teaching poetry is one of the excellent methods for teaching and learning basic skills from elementary classes. Poetry is made enjoyable and a rewarding tool. Fear of reading complex poetry is removed. Many researchers try to make their research in prose and fictions as they think poetry is complicated. Such man made fears particularly on target language is entirely eradicated. Graphic organizers are used in teaching poetry and useful to understand structures. Whenever we read a poem, students come across unusual structures every time. It helps to understand language structure of poems and poetic style of certain poets exclusively. Teachers

find meaningful ways to engage students to creative writing if they compose a poem. It provides an excellent opportunity to study and use popular lines in poetry. While we try to meet the needs of youth through literature, poetry is the most important form of literature to acquire vocabulary. Hence, target groups can use poems successfully to develop meaningful objectives if they are used with a purpose methodologically.

## Conclusion

In this digital age, the emergence of new technologies opens up to expand our application of technology to use and teach poetry. A poem with visual images is possible today. There are different opportunities to use poem in EFL classroom effectively. Access to resources is not an issue to students of this age. We have been already immersed in using online media in classrooms and teaching poems can also be done effectively. It is important for students to be able to read and write or construct texts in multiple genres like poetry and prose. Reading and understanding a poem is an oral language development which acknowledges that poetry is more advanced than prose. We can explore more ways to involve students in the dramatic exploration of poems systematically. Attention to using poems in language classrooms and rhythms of poems help us to improve our language efficiency.

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