

**Connecting Poetry with the Content Areas**  
**(Lesson Idea from this Seminar)**

**Materials:** Poetry books relating to content area being studied. EG: Animals

1. *Words with Wrinkled Knees* (Animal poems)  
by Barbara Juster Esbensen
2. *Bird Watch* by Jane Yolen
3. *Mammalabilia* by Douglas Florian
4. *Aska's Birds* by David Day

**Objectives:**

1. To correlate poetry with content areas.
2. To demonstrate how some poetry is filled with facts.
3. To encourage students to use the genre of poetry to share their factual information.
4. To foster the love of poetry.

**Procedures:**

1. Choose poetry that relates to your theme of study. Eg: animals
2. Saturate your students with poems about animals written in different styles by different authors. Discuss.
3. Choose a poem. Read it aloud to students twice.
4. Divide a piece of chart paper into three columns. Label the columns: **Poem Facts/Facts We Know/ Facts We Want to Know.**
5. Write on chart paper the facts told about that animal presented in the poem. Are these true? Where can we verify these "facts"?
6. What other facts do they know about this animal? (Write these in the second column).
7. What questions do they have about this animal?
8. Have students research more facts. Add to list.
9. As a class imitate the style of the original poem and add new facts in that poetic style to create a new poem.
10. Print copies of the group's new poem for all students. Have them illustrate their page and begin a poetry booklet for future content area studies.