

THE LIT LEAGUE

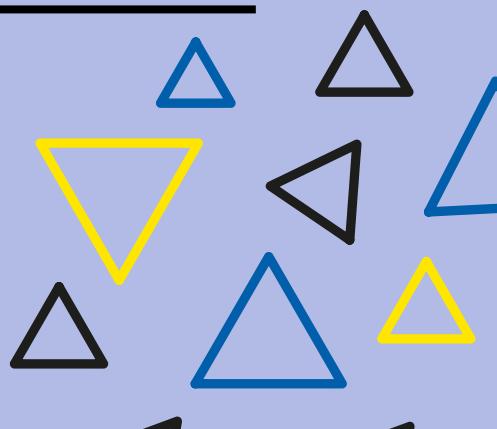
Welcome to...

THE LIT LEAGUE

WE ARE A SPOKEN POETRY
PROGRAM DEDICATED
EMPOWERING STUDENTS ON
STAGE!

Join us in our journey of
inspiring the next generation of
poets, and spreading poetry
across communities!

This workbook belongs to...



Meet the Founders

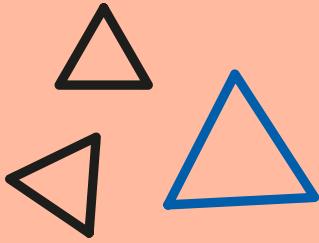


SAILEE

Hi! I am a professional spoken poet who performs across LA within schools and outreach programs! Now I want to spread spoken word to you guys!

ROBIN

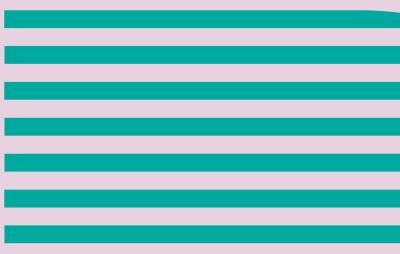
Hi! I am a nationally competitive dancer and public speaker who fell in love with the art of spoken word. Now I combine my two loves by reaching out to the youth!



First, what do you know about slam poetry?

So what is spoken poetry?

This type of poetry is meant to be PERFORMED ALOUD with tone, voicing and emotion. It explores identity, your own experiences, and social justice issues. Unlike TRADITIONAL POETRY, slam poetry is free form(meaning no rules or grammar!). Just let your experience and emotion guide you!



WHO CAN DO IT?

Spoken poetry originated with jazz poets in the 1920s, emerging primarily from the African American community in Harlem. Since then it has mainly been performed by teens and adults! But now we are bringing it to you!

How many local schools do you think offer spoken poetry?

If you answered **0** then you are correct? While we attend an arts school, spoken poetry hasn't been offered in any school YET!! That's why we are bringing it to you!

Why do you think poetry is important? (give 2 reasons!)

1.

2.



Here's the reason...

Spoken poetry is meant to be HEARD and FELT in way that written words can't. It builds confidence in the poet, but also creates a space where the audiences CAN RELATE TO YOU!

We are creating...

ACTION THROUGH ART!

CAN YOU NAME ANY FAMOUS POETS?

1.

2.

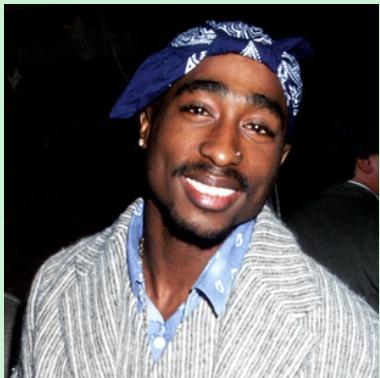
3.

4.

**What do you think makes them
famous?**

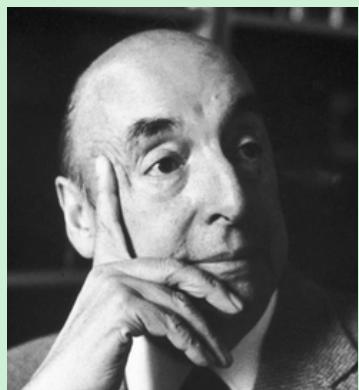
Read about some of the many famous poets here:

TUPAC



Tupac Shakur used spoken poetry to express raw emotion, social injustice, and the struggles of Black youth, blending powerful verse with the rhythm of street life. His famous song: California Love was originally a poem!

PABLO NERUDA



Pablo Neruda was a Chilean poet known for his passionate poems that explored love, politics, and the human experience.

SILVIA PLATH



Sylvia Plath was a confessional poet known for her intense, emotionally raw verses that explored themes of death, identity, and mental illness.

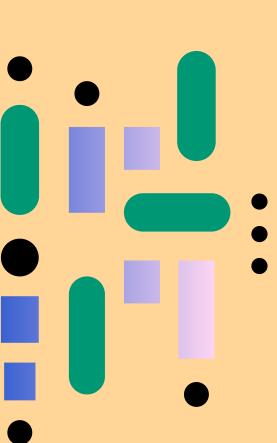
LANGSTON HUGHES



Langston Hughes was a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance whose poetry celebrated Black culture and spoke out against racial injustice with rhythm, pride, and hope.



To learn more about other poets scan the QR code!



Our Lit League curriculum has:

classic

vs

response

POEM WRITTEN BY A
PROFESSIONAL POET

POEM CREATED FROM
PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

There is no wrong or right way to write it!

Let's see people in action!

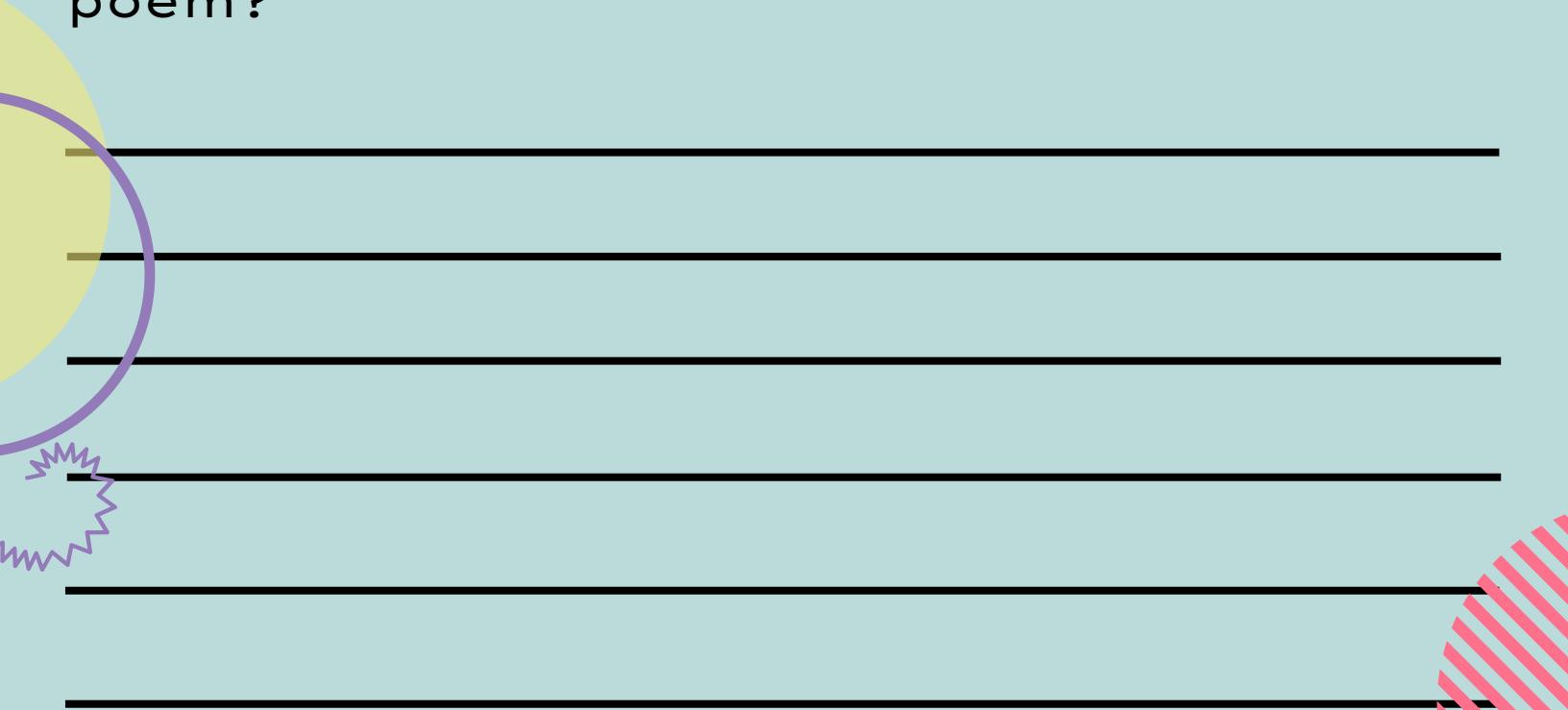
Step 1: Watch “Injustice” by Daria Dauchan



Daria Dauchan is a spoken word poet whose powerful performances blend poetry, music, and multimedia to explore themes like identity, race, and social justice. He continues to use his voice to challenge systemic oppression while celebrating Black culture and resilience.

Step 2: Answer the reflection questions

- 1) what sentences/phrases called out to you?
- 2) what stood out about this performance?
- 3) why did you enjoy the rhythm/music of the poem?



Let's see people in action!

Step 1: Watch “Portrait of Words” by Jamie Jaehee Jung



Jamie Jaehee Jung poet and spoken word artist at Brown University, renowned for her powerful performances exploring her Asian-American identity, artistry, and personal growth.

Step 2: Answer the reflection questions

- 1) what sentences/phrases called out to you?
- 2) what stood out about this performance?
- 3) why did you enjoy the rhythm/music of the poem?

Let's see people in action!

Step 1: Watch "All I Can Tell You " by Sailee Charlu



Step 2: Answer the reflection questions

- 1) what sentences/phrases called out to you?
- 2) what stood out about this performance?
- 3) why did you enjoy the rhythm/music of the poem?



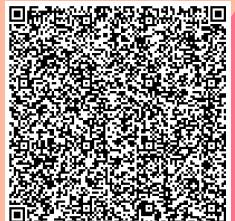
Links to videos of other talented spoken word poets!

Watch “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman



Amanda Gorman is a spoken word poet known for her powerful performances that blend activism, hope, and social justice. She gained national recognition after delivering her poem "The Hill We Climb" at President Biden's 2021 inauguration.

Watch “Here” by Aman Batra



Aman K. Batra (she/they) is an Indian-American spoken word poet, educator, and community organizer from Artesia, California, whose work is deeply informed by their queerness and Punjabi-American identity

What is your conclusion about these poems?

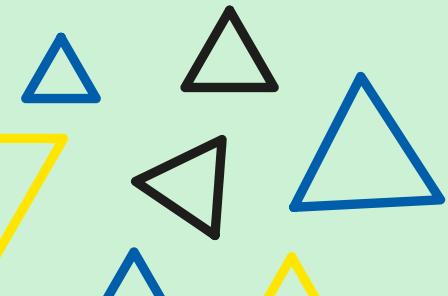
What we noticed...

All those poems that you just watched are RESPONSE POEMS, meaning they were poems created from our own experiences.

So how do I start my spoken poetry journey?

Step 1: Choose a classic poem. A CLASSIC POEM is a poem written by a professional poet.

Step 2: How do I choose? Choose a poem based on if you can relate with the author, the experiences, or the message of the poem.



Below is our collection of classic
poems in our **ANTHOLOGY**



Let's do a reflection on our classic poem!

- Why did you choose THIS poem?
- What in the poem can you relate to?
- How does it remind you of yourself?
Your world?
- What is the poem saying?



Let's put those thoughts into writing!

Although we just reflected, to TRULY UNDERSTAND your classic poem, we need to ANALYZE IT!

What do I need to pay attention to when I'm annotating?

1. Structure

- Stanza- Group of lines in poetry like a “paragraph”
- Line breaks- Where one poetic line ends, like a “sentence”
- Rhyme- Words with matching ending sounds
- Repetition-Repeating words for poetic emphasis.
- Punctuation- Marks that guide poem reading(. ? , -)

2. Linking-

Highlight similar words, images, or lines.

3. Possible Confusion

Write some questions! Look up words you don't know!

Let's look at an example!

Postscript By Marie Howe

What we did to the earth, we did to our daughters
one after the other.

What we did to the trees, we did to our elders
stacked in their wheelchairs by the lunchroom door.

What we did to our daughters, we did to our sons
calling out for their mothers.

What we did to the trees, what we did to the earth,
we did to our sons, to our daughters.

What we did to the cow, to the pig, to the lamb,
we did to the earth, butchered and milked it.

Few of us knew what the bird calls meant
or what the fires were saying.

We took of earth and took and took, and the earth
seemed not to mind

until one of our daughters shouted: it was right
in front of you, right in front of your eyes

and you didn't see.

The air turned red. The ocean grew teeth.



Try annotating this poem first, then
scan the QR code to see how we did it!

NOW, YOUR TURN!

Step 1: Read your Classic Poem to yourself

Step 2: Write out your own poem. And do the same annotations to your poem below.

Write out and annotate your poem here :

Step 3: Write a letter to your Classic Poem

Considerations:

- why did you choose this poem?
- what in the poem can you relate to?
- how does the poem remind you of yourself?
- do you agree with the poem's message?
- how could this poem help others?

Write your letter here:

Dear Classic Poem...

Sincerely,

Let's do an activity!

Read each quote written by a famous writer or poet and determine which category the quote fits under: Love, loss, freedom or chaos. It's all interpretation just like spoken poetry!

Quote 1:

“You may shoot me with your words...
but still, like dust, I'll rise.”

- Maya Angelou

LOVE

LOSS

FREEDOM

CHAOS

Quote 2:

“Hope is the thing with feathers / That
perches in the soul.”

— Emily Dickinson

LOVE

LOSS

FREEDOM

CHAOS

Quote 3:

“Love is the voice under all silences.”
— E.E. Cummings

LOVE

LOSS

FREEDOM

CHAOS

How do I write a response poem?

- We are now switching from a Classic Poem to a Response Poem, precedent to present.
- A RESPONSE POEM isn't just a summary or analysis of the Classic. You are writing an ORIGINAL POEM INSPIRED by what you read.
- Remember: There is no right or wrong! It's up to your interpretation!

Need some inspiration?

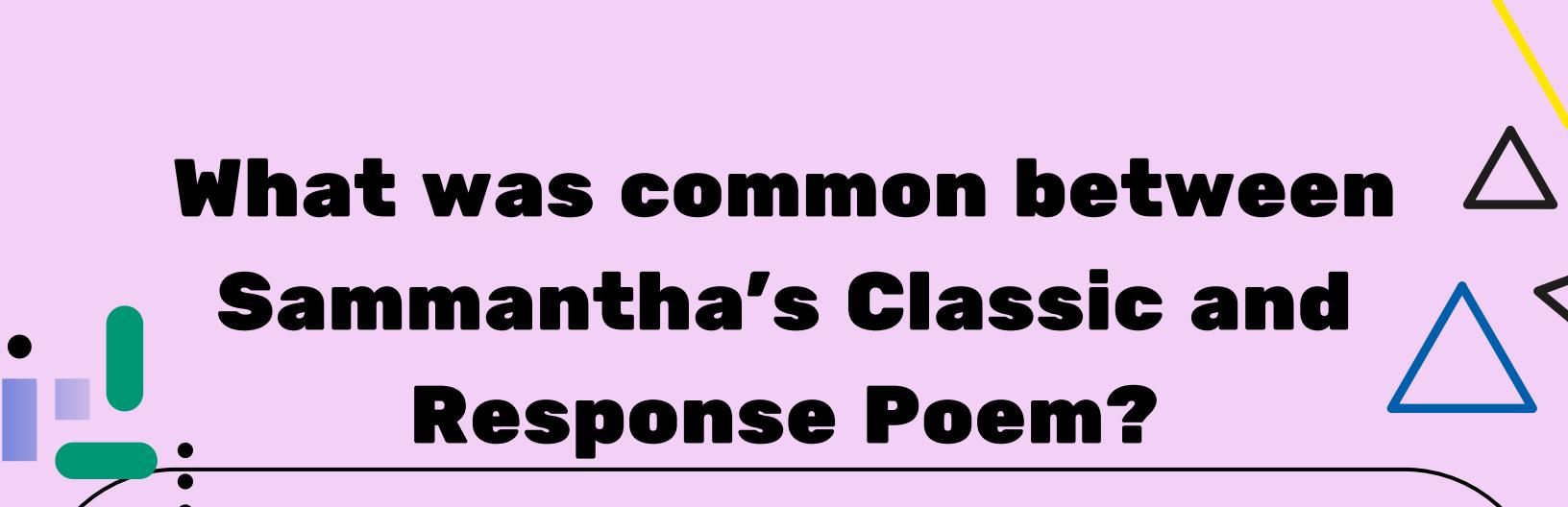


- **Watch the Classic Poem "To the Sea"**
- **Watch Response Poem "In Ways We Say I Love You" by Samantha Rios**



Samantha Rios is a dynamic spoken-word poet, performer, and current Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate whose inspiring work has reached stages from Get Lit's Classic Slam Finals to a citywide multimedia tribute at The Ford.





What was common between Samantha's Classic and Response Poem?

Identify similar...

- Phrases or sentences
- Ideas or images
- Specific objects or symbols

**What can you apply in
your own response poem?**

Identify

differences as well!

In your Response Poem you can..

- Write about the same subject
- Write about a story or memory the poem brings up
- Argue with the poem
- Use the same structure or rhyme scheme
- Write your favorite line from the classic poem as your first line and start from there
- Use your own native tongue to emphasize or strongly express a line or thought

All response poems can be...

- 1 minutes or more when read aloud(10 + lines)
- You can write in free verse or in form(using structure or a pentameter)

What are your thoughts on this?

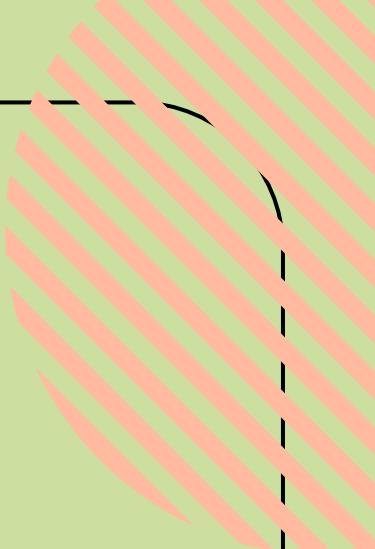
Let's look at a written example.

Let's look at Sailee's response "In the Seam" , an interpretation of the Classic "Postscript" that we previously saw. Apply the same type of annotations we went through previously. Make comments in the margins explaining your choices!

my worst fear is drowning
but then i think about what it would feel
submerged beneath the dappled waves
ten thousand miles of black linen
sewn down the seam

prickles of sunlight
like stars
the size of neurons

i can imagine the deep milky silence,
sweet
almost solid beneath my back
I where the only sound is
the rustle of invisible beings traversing
through folds of water
i can almost feel my fear rising,
wriggling
from my toes and stickily
gathering at my elbows
the fear of falling
through black
starless
Voids.
alive with the sounds of a silent symphony
humans like to think
that what is unimportant
is that which is unseen
but often what is unseen
is more vital than what we do see
take our ocean, our Mother
the origin of life
the milk



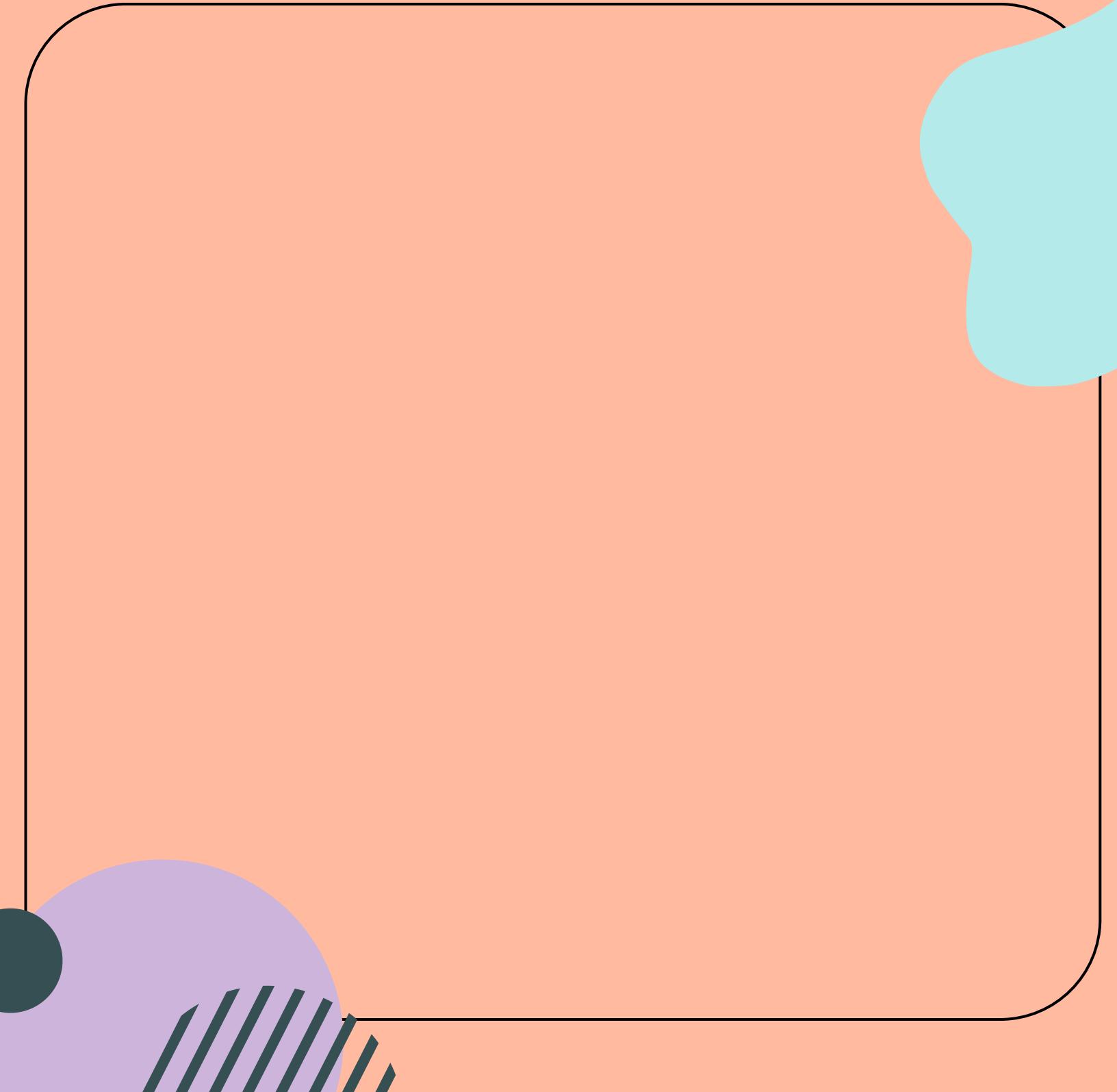
upon which which we suckle
yet we treat Her like a sewer
dump refuse into Her until
her once lovely body rots
and reeks like a carcass
we are but wailing infants
who crawl and fret for our hour upon the stage
then are heard of no more
but for that hour
we ravage this Earth
we wreck it
until it becomes unrecognizable
distorted

And so when i look down at the seemingly black void
beneath my toes,
i can hear the clicking orchestra of sperm whales
their heartbeat
booming
softly
and the gentle glow of jellyfish
blinking on
and off
and on again

and the tiny fish
with their glitter and scales
and the gentle movement of the squid
as its tentacles expand
and shrink like our diaphragm
i think even without oxygen, i'll be okay
because i have witnessed
the unseen beauty
that glimmers in these dark
silent
waters.

RESPONSE POEM:

*Write your own poem! Don't
think just write!*



I wrote my poem. What do I do now?

Let's revise our poems!

Step 1: Read your response poem outloud

- Try it slowly, angrily, like a conversation
- Ask yourself where does the rhythm trip me up?

Step 2: The “Why this Line?” Test

- why is this line here?- Does it help the audience feel something?
- Can I say this with fewer words but more impact?

Most importantly, reflect...

- Does this poem sound like me?
- Are there parts I feel uncomfortable performing? Why?

Let's do a speaking activity!

We will be using lines from “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou. Each line on this page will correspond with an emotion. Perform that line OUT LOUD with the emotion! Try it multiple times WITH OTHER EMOTIONS as well!

Line 1:

“You may shoot me with your words...
but still, like dust, I'll rise.”

ANGER

Line 2:

“Just like moons and like suns, with
the certainty of tides”

HAPPINESS

Line 3:

“Leaving behind nights of terror and
fear/ I rise”

GRIEF

Speaking Out Loud!

This is the hardest but most powerful part! It's okay if you are uncomfortable or scared at first! Practice is the best way to learn and get into the space!

What are your greatest fears when performing poetry?

4 Steps to Perform Poetry

1. Use a colloquial voice: spoken-word poetry is meant to be a very honest conversation with someone
2. Use volume and speed: increase in volume and speed in the most important and powerful parts of your poem
3. Tell your poem like a story: there should rise and fall when you perform
4. Be true to your poetic voice: you can add rap and beats and even another language like Spanish! Your regular voice is beautiful as it is!

You got this!

Let's see an example!

Watch "The Colors Fade in Me" by Sailee
Charlu and Saura Charlu



As you watch the video, pay attention
to the 4 steps of poetry!

Reflect on what you noticed and how you
can apply that to your own poem:

You did it!



You have successfully chosen a classic poem from our anthology, written a response poem, annotated both, and learned how to perform them!

Now what?

Practice, practice, practice. The best spoken word poets are constantly reciting the poems and playing with the ways they can perform and give value to these words.

Continue to watch video and learn about the world of poetry!



How can I compete?

Guess what? The Lit League offers a slam poetry online competition on our website:

<https://litleagueoc.com/>

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

We Accept Entries Every Month! Submit By The Last Day Of Each Month To Qualify For That Round. **Upcoming Deadline:** July 31, 2024.

First Name

John

Last Name

Wich

Email Address

johnwich@gmail.com

Phone Number

+123 456 7890

Upload spoken poetry video

Choose File

No file chosen

 Submit

The top three winners receive cash prizes and Lit League free merch!



Stay updated!

Joined our instagram:
@thelittleagueoc for more updates.
And check out our website and
youtube channel!



THE DRAGON KIM
FOUNDATION

THANK YOU SO MUCH!