

Rating Poems

Let's face it: Not all poems are created equally! Some are more likely to communicate emotions and feelings to readers than others. Use this handout to rate the overall quality of the poems that you review.

Rating Problem-Solution Pieces	
Rating	Description
<i>Your Work is Amazing</i>	<p><i>Your poem is amazing:</i> I could really relate to the emotions that you were expressing in your poem. They fit the topic that you were writing about and were consistent from the beginning to the end. You did a great job using vocabulary words that were powerful, and I think that helped me to understand how you feel about the topic that you're writing about.</p> <p>I also loved the words that you used throughout your poem. They were super interesting and they caught my attention. Finally, your use of poetry techniques—similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme, personification—was awesome. I loved how your poem sounded as I read it out loud, but the image that it created in my mind and the mark that it left on my heart were even better. <i>I'm probably going to remember your poem for a long time to come. In fact, I'll probably want to read it again and again.</i></p>
<i>You Got It</i>	<p><i>Your poem was pretty impressive:</i> As I was reading your poem, I could tell that you were working hard to use interesting vocabulary words to communicate a clear emotion that was perfect for your topic. While there were a few points where I think you could have incorporated more emotions, overall, I think that readers will be touched by your poem.</p> <p>I also think you included a ton of interesting words and solid poetry techniques in your poem. The strategies you used-- similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme, personification—caught my attention and seemed to fit. <i>While I'm not sure I'm going to remember your poem for very long, I definitely enjoyed reading it.</i></p>
<i>You've Got Work to Do</i>	<p><i>Your poem needs some work:</i> As I was reading your poem, I didn't really see any clear emotions—humor, sadness, anger, joy—expressed. I think that's because the vocabulary words that you chose were just average. None were exceptionally powerful.</p> <p>I also think that you struggled to use poetry techniques—similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, rhythm, rhyme, personification—well. There are places where your use of poetry techniques doesn't seem fit the topic of the poem. There are other places where it seems like you were forcing poetry techniques. The technique became more important than the poem.</p> <p><i>Overall, I'd love to see you do some more polishing on this piece because I think it has potential. It was kind of hard to enjoy it as it is, though.</i></p>

Celebrations and Suggestions	
Question	Your Response
What can we celebrate about this particular poem? What specific phrases and/or poetry techniques did you like the best? Why?	
What suggestions do you have for improving this poem? What sections threw you off? What specific changes would you make if this poem was yours?	