

## POETRY AND THE LAW

Learning Objective(s): The student will

Synthesize learning regarding legal concepts and terminology and create a product expressing this critical thinking attribute.

TEKS: LA 1.18B 2.18B, 3.18B 4.16B, 5.16B

Materials Needed: Copies of "Signers of the Constitution"

Vocabulary: Cinquains, diamante, limerick, acrostic, biopoem

Teaching Strategy:

After a study of legal concepts and terminology, students will be given various poetry forms and asked to create a product which reflects their critical thinking in analyzing and describing these concepts.

Assign one of the signers of the Constitution to each student. Have the students write a poem about that signer, using one of the poetry forms on the following pages. Students could do further research and include ideals which the signers promoted (liberty, equality, privacy, justice, property, etc.) in their poetry.

# POETRY FORMS

## CINQUAINS:

Line 1: One-word title -- usually a noun	Prison
Line 2: Two-word description -- usually two adjectives	Always here
Line 3: Three words expressing actions	Clanging, depressing, confining
Line 4: Four-word phrase expressing feeling for the topic	They are overly crowded
Line 5: One-word synonym that restates the essence/meaning of topic	Sing-Sing

## DIAMANTE:

Line 1: One Noun (Title)	WASHINGTON
Line 2: Two adjectives	Brave, honest
Line 3: Three participles	Growing, studying, learning
Line 4: Four related nouns	Surveyor, soldier, commander, President
Line 5: Three participles	Working, fighting, serving
Line 6: Two adjectives	Loved, honored
Line 7: One noun (synonym)	President

## LIMERICK:

Line 1: 8 syllables (rhyme of A)	There once was a man with no rights
Line 2: 8 syllables (rhyme of A)	Who soon learned this after a fight
Line 3: 6 syllables (rhyme of B)	He said, "What have I done?"
Line 4: 6 syllables (rhyme of B)	They said, "You're guilty, son."
Line 5: 8 syllables (rhyme of A)	Miranda went to jail that night.

## ACROSTIC:

The first letters of each line form the name of the person or term.

G \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_ U \_\_\_\_\_

O \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_

R \_\_\_\_\_ H \_\_\_\_\_

G \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

## **BIOPOEM**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Four Traits That Describe Character: \_\_\_\_\_

Position or Job: \_\_\_\_\_

Longing for: \_\_\_\_\_

Who Feels: \_\_\_\_\_

Who Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Who Fears: \_\_\_\_\_

Who Gives: \_\_\_\_\_

Who Would Like To See: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident of: \_\_\_\_\_

Synonym: \_\_\_\_\_

## CONCEPT POETRY

Step One: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

**Concept:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Possible answers: War, poverty, hate, prejudice)

1. What color is it?
2. What does it taste like?
3. What does it smell like?
4. What does it do for fun?
5. What makes it angry?
6. What makes it sad?
7. What makes it happy?
8. What is it smaller than?
9. What is it bigger than?
10. What is its worst enemy?
11. What is its best friend?
12. What does it keep in a secret place?
13. What is its favorite place?
14. Where does it hate to be?
15. What is its greatest accomplishment?
16. What is its greatest failure?
17. How does it make you feel?

Step Two: Match your answers to the corresponding blanks.

Complete the poem by filling in the blanks and copying the lines on paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Concept)  
(Concept) \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#1) \_\_\_\_\_

It tastes like \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#2) \_\_\_\_\_

It smells like \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#3) \_\_\_\_\_

For fun it likes to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#4) \_\_\_\_\_

While \_\_\_\_\_ (#5) \_\_\_\_\_ makes it  
angry

\_\_\_\_\_ (#6) \_\_\_\_\_ makes it  
sad

But \_\_\_\_\_ (#7) \_\_\_\_\_ makes it  
happy

\_\_\_\_\_ (Concept) \_\_\_\_\_ is smaller than  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#8) \_\_\_\_\_

But bigger than \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#9) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (#10) \_\_\_\_\_ is its  
enemy

But \_\_\_\_\_ (#11) \_\_\_\_\_ is its  
friend

\_\_\_\_\_ (Concept) \_\_\_\_\_ keeps \_\_\_\_\_ (#12) \_\_\_\_\_ in a secret  
place

Its favorite place is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (#13) \_\_\_\_\_

But it hates to be \_\_\_\_\_ (#14)  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (#15) \_\_\_\_\_ is its greatest  
success

\_\_\_\_\_ (#16) \_\_\_\_\_ is its greatest  
failure

\_\_\_\_\_ (Concept) \_\_\_\_\_ makes me \_\_\_\_\_ (#17)  
\_\_\_\_\_