Lesson 1: Read aloud poetry.
Students can:
- Appreciate poetry by listening to its rhyme, rhythm, and overall sound

1. Choose poems from the ESU Handbook.
2. Students read silently each poem to themselves.
3. Teacher and/or students read aloud each poem to determine overall sound.
4. Teacher and/or students identify where in each poem it is important to pause and why (line breaks, spacing, punctuation, rhythm, emotion, etc.)
5. Teacher and/or students identify where in each poem to use a specific tone and why (specific emotional words/phrases/lines, specific adjectives, etc.)
6. Teacher and/or students read aloud each poem with necessary pausing and tone to produce overall sound.
7. Teacher and/or students reread each poem and look for passages and ideas that stand out or have special meaning.

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from ELA Common Core Lesson Plans

Lesson 2: Read and analyze poetry.
Students can:
- Understand poetry by applying a variety of strategies
- Appreciate poetry by listening to its rhyme, rhythm, and overall sound

1. Tell students they will be learning strategies to help them appreciate poetry and read poetry more effectively.
2. Choose a poem from the ESU Handbook and read it aloud two times. Reading a poem aloud more than once can help students get an overall feel for the language, rhyme, rhythm, and meaning of the poem.
3. Discuss the concept of visualizing by asking the students what does the quotation "there are pictures in poems and poems in pictures" mean. Visualizing is when the author paints a picture in your head.
4. Read aloud the poem again and ask students to visualize the images to clarify words and phrases. Ask students to share what they visualized.
5. Evaluate the poem's theme (meaning or message), and allow understanding to grow. Explain to students that when you make an inference, you are "reading between the lines." In order to make an inference, you pay close attention to the details in the poem to make a logical assumption. An inference is a logical judgment based on a writer's words as well as your own knowledge and experience. Remind students to think about what the poet is trying to help them understand. Does it connect to anything in their lives? What is the idea or message?

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from Scholastic.com

Lesson 3: Read and analyze poetry.
Students can:
- Understand poetry by applying a variety of strategies
- Appreciate poetry by listening to its rhyme, rhythm, and overall sound

1. Choose a poem from the ESU Handbook.
2. Apply these strategies when reading and discussing the poem.
   - Preview
   - Read aloud
   - Visualize
   - Clarify - (Dictionary.com for definition and pronunciation of words. Thesaurus.com for synonyms.)
   - Evaluate
3. Using the Inference Graphic Organizer, students will choose three descriptive statements from the poem and write an inference for each statement.
4. Encourage students to draw illustrations or add an image to accompany their inferences.
5. Discuss students' inferences as a class.

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from Scholastic.com

Lesson 4: Annotate a poem to understand meaning.
Students can:
- Understand poetry by using annotation techniques

1. Choose a poem from the ESU Handbook. Copy it onto a half-slice of paper and use the other half for writing an analysis.
2. Read the poem aloud.
3. Instruct students to identify (circle, underline, highlight, square) any part of the poem that stands out.
4. Instruct students to identify (circle, underline, highlight, square) any part of the poem that confuses them.
5. Instruct students to identify (circle, underline, highlight, square) any part of the poem that is important.
6. Ask students what the poem might mean. Students can write questions in the margin; highlight unusual words; mark phrases that indicate the poem's meaning.
7. Determine the poem's theme (meaning, message) and draw arrows to the lines that support the theme.

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from ELA Common Core Lesson Plans

Lesson 5: Annotate a poem to discuss meaning.
Students can:
- Speak about poetry using annotation techniques

1. Choose a poem from the ESU Handbook.
2. Give students five minutes to read and annotate with the SLAM techniques.
3. Ask a small group of students to identify the rhyme scheme and sound devices (alliteration, onomatopoeia).
4. Ask a small group of students to identify imagery and symbols.
5. Ask a small group of students to identify metaphors and similes.
6. Assign a small group of students to identify personification and hyperbole.
7. Assign a small group of students to identify words, phrases, and lines that stand out.
8. Share and discuss a couple of annotations from each small group. What might these annotations mean?

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from ELA Common Core Lesson Plans

Lesson 6: Read aloud poetry to show meaning.
Students can:
- Interpret a poem's meaning
- Read aloud a poem with pausing and tone to show an understanding of the poem's meaning.

1. Students choose a poem from the ESU Handbook to interpret with strategies and annotation techniques.
2. Students choose specific quotations or phrases from the poem that represent the poem's meaning.
3. Students discuss possible ways for how each quotation or phrase should be read aloud in order to best show the poem's meaning.
4. Students read aloud the quotations and phrases with pausing and tone.
5. Students read aloud the entire poem to show an understanding of the poem's meaning.

Classroom Engagement Lessons Student Slides
Lesson adapted from ELA Common Core Lesson Plans

Additional Resources:

https://www.poetryoutloud.org

poets.org | Academy of American Poets

5 Poetry Activities for Students in Grades 3 to 12

Best Poetry Videos for Elementary School