



Individual or Partners

# Best-Guess Poetry Square

Students increase their vocabularies and strengthen their math skills with cinquain poetry.



*Sarah Breinig, Cameron Hodges, Stephanie MacDonald, Danielle Morris, and Jordan Softli all 3rd-grade students—worked together to create this Best-Guess Poetry Square.*

## Poetry and Project Materials

- ✦ Draft paper
- ✦ Pencils/pens/markers
- ✦ One copy of page 51 per student
- ✦ Scissors
- ✦ Art supplies (paint, stickers, fabric pieces, carpet samples, etc.)

## Poetry Writing: Cinquain Poems

A cinquain poem is composed of five short, non-rhyming lines:

Line 1—One-word title

Line 2—Two descriptive words

Line 3—Three action words

Line 4—Four feeling words (how I feel when I think about the title)

Line 5—Another word that describes the title



In this particular project, the last line will be the number or concept the poem describes—the answer to the riddle.

Triple  
Few, Tres  
Tripling, Trio, Triangling  
Happy, Special, Great, Friends  
Answer: #3

—Sarah Breining, Danielle Morris, Jordan Softli, Stephanie MacDonald,  
and Cameron Hodges, Grade 3

Bronze  
Tricycle, Triangle  
Winning, Wheeling, Angling  
Happy, Friendly, Fun-loving, Learning  
Answer: #3

—Dane Steel and Nic Bruya, Grade 4

- 1 Have the class vote to select the number or math concept they will use as the subject of their guessing poem. This number or concept will become the last line of their poem, the one the readers must guess.
- 2 Next, invite students to think of clues (descriptive words, action words, etc.) to use in their poems. Record these words on the board.
- 3 Have your class write a group poem about the number or math concept they chose following the structure outlined above.
- 4 Break the class into groups of four or five. Then invite each group to select a new number and work together to write a draft of a group poem—leaving the last line off so readers can guess the answer number of the poem.

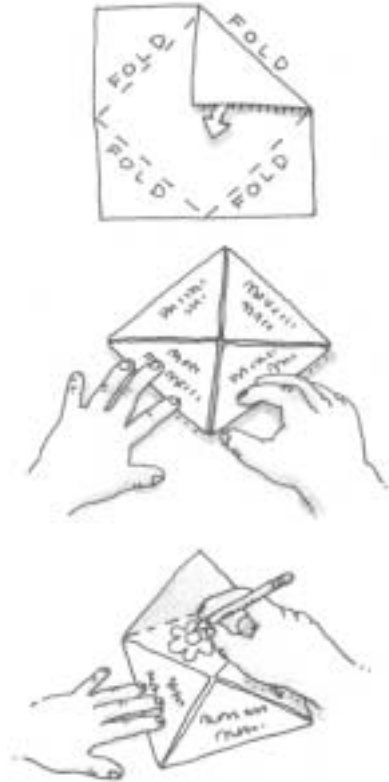
★ TEACHER HINT ★

Because the project is somewhat complex, you may want to write one cinquain poem with the whole class before having them work in smaller groups, with partners, or individually.



## Project Steps

- 1 Distribute a copy of page 51 to each group and have students cut out the poetry square.
- 2 Next, show students how to fold each of the square's corners into its center, making a hard crease on each dotted line.
- 3 Using the project sample from the book and page 51 as your guide, help students write each of the first four lines of the poem on one of the folded triangles, working clockwise so that the first line goes in the upper left-hand corner, the second in the upper right-hand corner, the third in the lower right-hand corner, and the fourth in the lower left-hand corner. Write the fifth line on the back of the poetry square.
- 4 Have students lift each triangle and draw pictures or paste stickers on the inside of each one to represent the words on the outside flap.
- 5 When everyone has finished their cinquain squares, have students exchange them to see if they can guess what each other's poems are about.



## project Extension

The Best-Guess Poetry Square is a great tool for reinforcing students' understanding of science concepts, historical events, language arts, and even foreign languages.