

# CLOSE READING POETRY

We have been using these poems on a monthly basis for fluency practice. They are fun poems that students enjoy reading. They have also sparked a lot of conversation about word choice, language, vocabulary, etc.

Jeffrey L., 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Annotation Marks  
around

The Spider  
By Jane Taylor (1883)



"Only spider!" said Ann;  
"Get away with her fan,  
There as ever can be,  
The crawling on me."

"Venture to say,  
To out of your way,  
Fall, and the pain,  
Than you to complain.

"The poor insect, my dear?  
The excuse for your fear,  
Hurried away,  
They went, I dare say.

"It grant to be just,  
Can tread them to dust;  
Be for alarm,  
Would do us no harm.

"Come, do you see  
Spun in the tree?

"Is a lesson for you:

Come learn from this spider what patience can do!

"And when at your business you're tempted to play,  
Recollect what you see in this insect to-day,  
Or else, to your shame, it may seem to be true,  
That a poor little spider is wiser than you."

Close Read the Poem

1<sup>st</sup> Read: Get the gist

What is this poem all about?

Ann had a spider land on her, and  
her mother is showing her there is  
nothing to worry about.

2<sup>nd</sup> Read: Analyze the poem

How does Ann's mother feel about spiders?

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3<sup>rd</sup> Read: Connect

Did this poem affect your feelings about spiders? Explain.

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connects to important text

# WHAT'S INCLUDED?

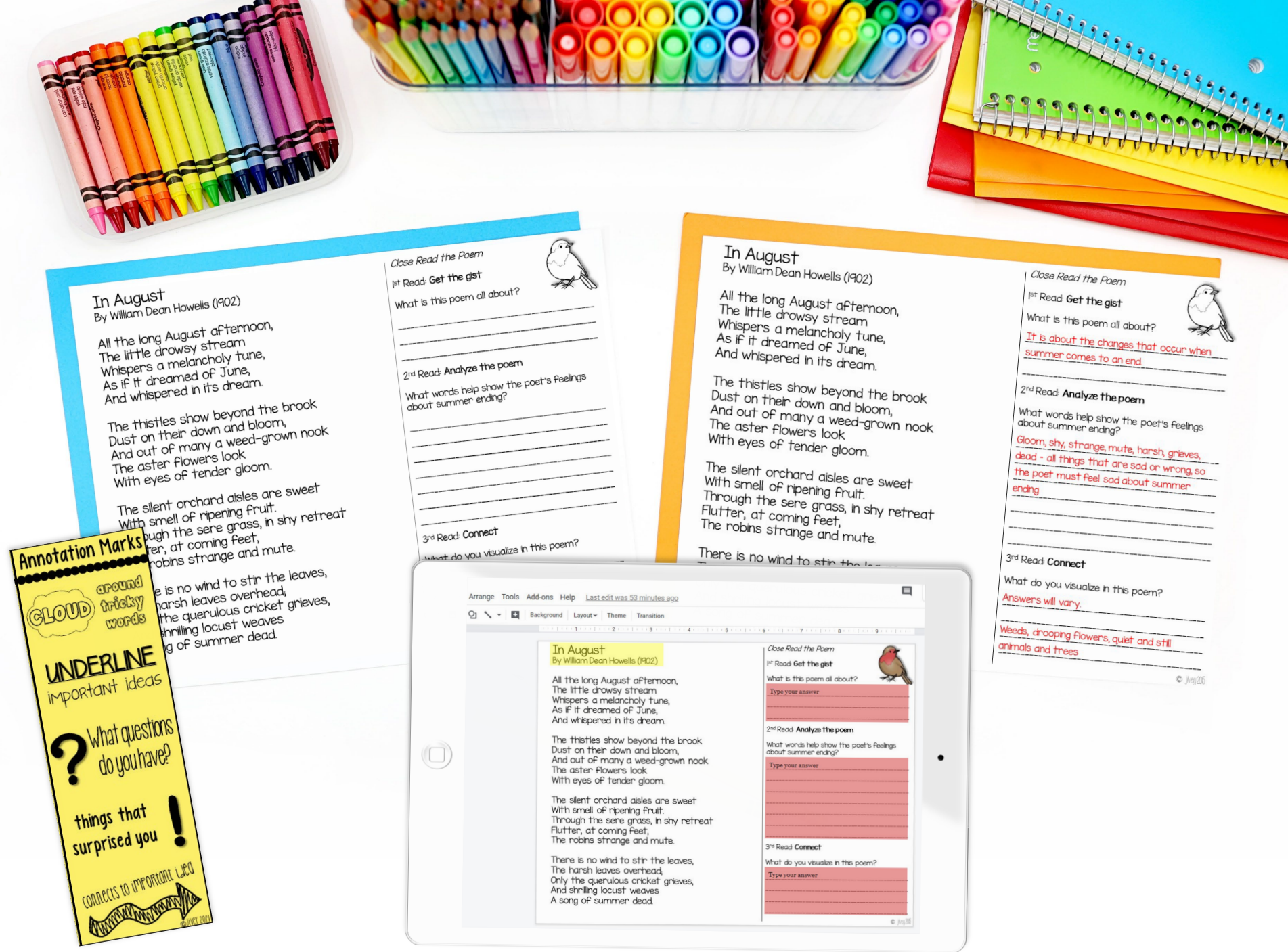
suggestions for use

annotation bookmarks

twelve classic poems  
with three questions to  
guide each read with a  
different purpose

digital and printable  
versions of each page

answer keys for the  
guiding questions





# WAYS TO USE THIS RESOURCE:

whole group or small  
group modeling

read and annotate the  
poems together for the  
first read to get the gist,  
then allow students to  
complete the second  
and third read

completely independent  
practice for students  
reading above 4th-5th  
grade level

## Verse for a Certain Dog

By Dorothy Parker (1926)

Such glorious faith as fills your limpid eyes,  
Dear little friend of mine, I never knew.  
All-innocent are you, and yet all-wise.  
(For heaven's sake, stop worrying that shoe!)

You look about, and all you see is fair,  
This mighty globe was made for you alone.  
Of all the thunderous ages, you're the heir.  
(Get off the pillow with that dirty bone!)

A skeptic world you face with steady gaze,  
High in young pride you hold your noble head,  
Gayly you meet the rush of roaring days.  
(*Must* you eat puppy biscuit on the bed?)

Lancelike your courage, gleaming swift and strong,  
Yours the white rapture of a wingèd soul,  
Yours is a spirit like a May-day song.  
(God help you, if you break the goldfish bowl!)

"Whatever is, is good," your gracious creed.  
You wear your joy of living like a crown.  
Love lights your simplest act, your every deed.  
(Drop it, I tell you—put that kitten down!)

You are God's kindest gift of all,—a friend.  
Your shining loyalty unflecked by doubt,  
You ask but leave to follow to the end.  
(Couldn't you wait until I took you out?)



### Close Read the Poem

#### 1st Read: **Get the gist**

What is this poem all about?

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#### 2nd Read: **Analyze the poem**

What does the author compare the dog to in the poem?

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#### 3rd Read: **Connect**

Explain what is happening in the lines that contain parentheses. How do they contradict each stanza?

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# POEMS INCLUDED:

In August By William Dean Howells (1902)

Bed In Summer By Robert Louis Stevenson (1913)

The Spider By Jane Taylor (1883)

November By Alice Cary (1873)

Snow-Flakes By Fannie Isabelle Sherrick (1880)

Mr. Nobody By Anonymous

My Shadow By Robert Louis Stevenson (1885)

The Brook By Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1862)

Woodman, Spare That Tree! By George Pope Morris (1830)

A Riddle By Hannah More (1818)

Verse for a Certain Dog by Dorothy Parker (1926)

Mother to Son by Langston Hughes (1922)

