



Title: Love That Dog Author: Sharon Creech

According to Jack, “Boys don’t write poetry. Girls do” But before he knows it, Miss Stretchberry has Jack and readers thinking in new ways about what poetry can be. Not only is Jack inspired to write to his favorite poet, but the poet agrees to visit, and Jack finds out how much more there is to poetry than the words on the page.

Let’s Talk

What is a poem?

Do you have a favorite poem? One you like in the book?

“Love That Dog” is written in journal form with poems. Why might an author chose to write it like this?

How does the appearance of something change the way people feel about it? Jack’s teacher types up his poems and he feel differently about them. What happens to you when you dress up?

Look at the poem My Yellow Dog on page 37. Would you have called this a poem?

How does being anonymous change things? What might you try if you could be anonymous?

What changes about Jack by the end of the story? Did read- ing this book change what you think about poetry?

Try This

Try to write a poem that physicaly looks like something. Try rain or a building or a tree.

Create a poem that uses words that sound like the object or action. Try creating it with a partner.

Describe something to the group and have each person come up with a poem that tells about it. Read aloud and compare them. (If the writers want to be anonymous shuffle the pages before they are read.)

Create music to accompany a poem. Is there a rhythm? Mood?

Explore More in the Library

The Last-Place Sports Poems of Jeremy Bloom : a Collection of Poems About Winning, Losing, and Being a Good Sport (Sometimes) by Gordon Korman and Bernice Korman (J Fiction Korman)

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein (J 811.54)

A River of Words : the Story of William Carlos Williams by Jen Bryant (J 811.52 Williams Bryant)

A Swinger of Birches : Poems of Robert Frost for Young People Illustrated by Peter Koeppen. (1st Floor J 811.5)

Edgar Allan Poe’s Pie : Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems by J. Patrick Lewis (J 793.73 Lewis)

A Fire in my Hands : Poems by Gary Soto (J 811.54 Soto)

Langston Hughes edited by Arnold Rampersad & David Roessel (J 811.52)

Life Doesn’t Frighten Me by Maya Angelou (J 811.54)