Garden Poetry

Objective:
Students understand the format of a cinquain, an “I am” poem, and an acrostic poem. Students practice creative writing skills using the garden for inspiration.

Materials needed:
Clipboards
Poetry sheets (pages 2-4)
Pencils

Procedure:
1. Define and describe the following types of poems to students: cinquain, “I am”, and acrostic.

2. A cinquain poem has the following format:
   Line 1: Subject
   Line 2: Describe subject in 2 words
   Line 3: 3 words to describe what object does
   Line 4: 4 words to describe how author feels about subject
   Line 5: another word for subject

3. An “I am” poem uses descriptive words to personify an object, in this case, the garden.

4. An acrostic poem uses each letter of the name of an object (in this case a plant) to start each line to describe the object.

5. Have students walk around the garden, choose, a plant, then complete three poems using the worksheets on pages 2-4.

Extension Activity:
The garden is a wonderful source of inspiration for students. Creative writing prompts which focus on aspects of the garden can spark exploration. For example, have the students write stories from the view point of a flower, a fruit, a leaf, or a pollinator.
Garden Poetry: Cinquain

Find a plant in your garden and write a cinquain that describes your feelings about the plant. Follow the format:

Line 1: One word naming subject
Line 2: Two words to describe subject
Line 3: Three words to describe what subject does
Line 4: Four words to describe how you feel about subject
Line 5: Write another word for subject

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Draw your plant below:
Garden Poetry: I am a Garden

Sit and observe the garden for 10 minutes. Imagine you ARE the garden. Follow the format below and create an “I am” poem as if you were a garden.

(first stanza)

I am ______________________________________________________________
I wonder___________________________________________________________
I hear _____________________________________________________________
I see______________________________________________________________
I want_____________________________________________________________

(second stanza)

I pretend __________________________________________________________
I feel ______________________________________________________________
I touch____________________________________________________________
I laugh at __________________________________________________________
I worry about______________________________________________________

(third stanza)

I understand _______________________________________________________
I say ______________________________________________________________
I dream____________________________________________________________
I try ______________________________________________________________
I hope ____________________________________________________________
I am_______________________________________________________________
Garden Poetry: Acrostic

Pick your favorite plant in the garden. Find the name of it and create an acrostic poem, in which each line begins with a letter of the plant’s name. See example below.

Romerillo
R Roaming in the weed bushes,
O open-faced and daisy-looking,
M many different butterflies come to it.
E everyone’s favorite “he loves me” flower
R runs rampant throughout the tropics.
I it produces insignificant little seeds that
L look like little needles, which
L lock into every article of clothing.
O otherwise known as Bidens alba.

Now you try!

Plant Name ______________________________________

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