



## Course 3: The Practice of Scholé with Kathy Weitz

### Lesson 4: Poetry

#### Outline:

##### Poetry in your Homeschool

- “Poets wish to either profit or delight.” Horace, *Ars Poetica*
- “A poem begins in delight, but ends in wisdom.” Robert Frost
- “Poetry is a fountain forever overflowing with the waters of wisdom and delight.” Percy Shelley

##### Methods and Practices to Incorporate Poetry

- Poetry appreciation
  - Study a poet over time.
  - Read poetry aloud for enjoyment.
  - Read poetry anthologies.
  - Poems are great to memorize together.
- Study the poems of one poet at a time, simply reading his poems over a “complete term that he may have time to do what is in him toward cultivating the seeing eye, the hearing ear, the generous heart.” (Charlotte Mason)
- At Providence Prep
  - Read aloud one poem at least 3 times a week.
  - Each poet is studied for 6-9 weeks.
  - Poetry readers have a brief introduction of the poet.
  - The final week, after reading the poet’s works chronologically, spend a week reviewing and talking about favorite poems.
  - This is a daily habit.
  - At Scholé Group, the poem is read aloud, sometimes by a student.
  - There is a 6 year cycle of poems. The students read and become familiar with 150 of the best known and well-loved poems in the English language.
  - This practice tunes the children’s ears and orders affections.
  - Older students can put lines of poetry in to copy book or commonplace book.
  - Younger students may do a sketch book assignment. Students put poet and poem into their book of centuries (timeline).

##### How to Read a Poem with a Child

- Arthur Quiller-Couch, *On the Art of Reading*
  - Read from Milton’s poems from earlier in life.
  - Don’t stop to explain too many details.
  - Go on reading as well as you can.



- When the children get the thrill of it, they will be asking more questions than you are able to answer.

## Formal Poetry Study

- Teach your children the mechanics of poetry.
  - How to recognize the rhyme scheme
  - How to name the meter
  - How to recognize figures of speech
- Study literary movements. Study periods. Study the Romantics. Study Greek epic poetry. Study Old English poetry. Study early Modern poetry.

## Memorize Poetry

- This imprints the beautiful patterns of language on your children's' minds, the best words in the best order.
- Read a poem over and over again and you will find your children memorize a poem.
- Do formal memorization and recitation.
- Reciting together in community helps to cement to poems in your children's' minds.
- Memorizing poetry is a delight and a joy and it will bring wisdom.