Dear Teacher,

We look forward to your participation in the “Poetry Café”. This event should serve as a celebration of the work you have done throughout the year with the Michigan Standards. Specifically, work with the following ELA standards:

- Reading Standards: Literature
- Craft and Structure
- Reading Standards: Foundational Skills
- Fluency
- Reading Standards: Text Complexity
- Range of Text Types
- Writing Standards
- Production and Distribution
- Speaking and Listening
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

After students study and write poetry in your classrooms, it is time to share that work with their peers. The students may choose to share something they have written or simply share a favorite poem or dramatic reading that they have practiced. We have included some poetry resources for your convenience, but this celebration can be used with any program or supplemental resources already used to meet the Michigan Standards.

During the “Poetry Cafe”, students may present individually or in small teams. Please note that due to time restrictions, some students may need to present before or after the distance learning event. Depending upon the number of classrooms participating, we will rotate schools to perform. Each school will select three presentations to share at a time and then the next school will take a turn. We will rotate through the schools as long as time allows.

In order to best prepare for this event, please review the following video both as a teacher and possibly with your class. It will give you a good idea of what will happen this day.


After reviewing the above video, think about how you will prepare your space. We have included the following items to help create a “Beatnik” themed learning space for the day.

- Brick Wall Backdrop
- Activity to make a microphone
- Sun Glasses
- Miscellaneous Poetry Templates
- Beret Hats
- History of Beatnik Poetry
- Images of Clothing Styles so Students can see how to dress for Poetry Café Reading

**Items that hopefully you can supply for the poetry space:**

- Stool; Light or Lamp for Background Effect; Easel to Place Poster on
- Microphone Stand or a Music Stand to Place Poetry on
- Hair Net or Shower Cap to place inside Beret so that students can share these

If you have any questions, please contact us. We look forward to a wonderful day of sharing Poetry!

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Note about Microphone. Your school or district level technical coordinator should be able to help you with this. Please contact this person to pass this note along to him/her.

An idea situation for the Poetry Café would be for the student to be able to use a "real" microphone that really works to speak into when reciting their poem either on a stand or a handheld.

If this is not doable then a room microphone that can be set up on the poetry platform / space so that the student can be heard. We will not need to hear the rest of the classroom.

If using the LifeSize ClearSea then if possible place the computer / Laptop as close as possible to the poetry platform / space so that we only see and hear the student who is reciting their poetry. Having the backdrop and the easel with the poster in the picture will help as well. Or you can put the poster on the backdrop itself to save space.

The poster included in your packet of materials is for your use. Fill in the white space with your school information, any format or title is up to you and your class. This poster is for you to keep so don't worry about sending it back.

This is Lisa Rivard in the studio with Emoji's and ready to show them to the students with how well their poetry was.

Below is a class that used the materials sent from the MISD