



Practical Poetry: A Nonstandard Approach to Meeting Content-Area Standards

Sara Holbrook

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Are you searching for instruction that reinforces standards-based content in language arts, math, science, or social studies?

- That generates student interest?
 - That promotes critical thinking?
 - That doesn't sacrifice time in your curriculum?

Then it's time for a new approach.

In *Practical Poetry*, Sara Holbrook shows you how the precise language and keen observations of poems can be used as nuts-and-bolts tools for addressing content and language standards in four key subject areas. Whether you teach one or several subjects, *Practical Poetry* includes chapters specially written to show you how to promote content understanding and meaning-making in language arts, math, science, and social studies by taking poems out of the artsy ether and making them *functional*. Even if you aren't a poet, you'll be ready to use poetry in your class tomorrow because each of Holbrook's lessons:

- describes the rationale for how and why the lessons work
- identifies the specific content standards you'll be addressing in your teaching
- includes exemplar poems to use right away or to guide you in weaving favorite poems into your lesson planning
- provides examples of student work from classrooms where poetry has been used successfully as a vehicle for learning.

You might think you don't have room in your standards-based curriculum to teach with poems, but with applications to content standards woven throughout, *Practical Poetry* will prove that you do. Take Sara Holbrook's advice. You'll energize your students, reinforce their topical understanding over a variety of content-area standards, and build their critical-thinking and language skills. Poetry has never been so practical.

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Amanda Dell:

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