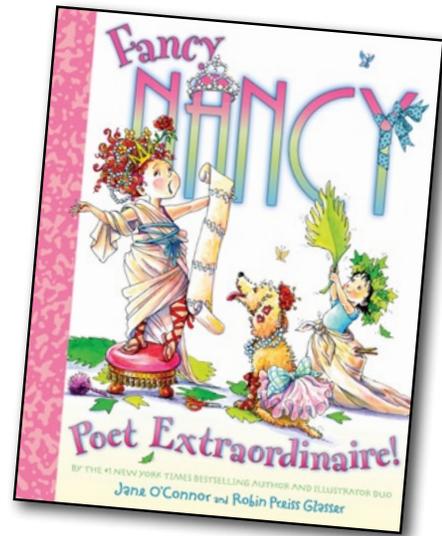


Fancy NANCY

Poet Extraordinaire! Classroom Guide



About the Book

Fancy Nancy Clancy is so naturally poetic that even her name rhymes! But poetry doesn't have to rhyme, as Nancy learns in this book of limericks, odes, couplets, and more. When Ms. Glass assigns Nancy and her classmates the project of writing their very own poems, Nancy is determined to write one that is superb (that's a fancy word for great). But when faced with writer's block (*très horrible!*), Nancy worries that she'll never come up with a good idea. Luckily, with a love of words and a little inspiration, Nancy just might be a poet extraordinaire after all.



Before Reading

Nancy adores fancy words! Before reading *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* with your students, help them learn some of the fancier words from the book. Give pairs of students two of the words from the list below to define. Then have the student pairs create a fancy flash card for each word on an oversized index card, with the word on the front and the definition and an accompanying illustration on the back. Collect all the flash cards into a class set and help students learn the new vocabulary (that's a fancy word for words) together as a group.

anonymous
anthology
bouquet
collection
column
compose
couplet
creative



emotion
flattered
inspiration
limerick
naturally
ode
plume
polliwog



refreshments
relaxing
rhythm
sensational
superb
survey
tragic
writer's block



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Poetry Activities

1. **Favorite Poem Survey.** Nancy and her classmates conduct a survey in which they ask people the question, "What is your favorite poem?" Survey your students to see what their favorite poems are, reminding them that nursery rhymes and song lyrics count as poetry. Then ask students to conduct a survey of their immediate family members to find out their favorite poems. Have students look up and read their family members' favorites and then select one to bring in and share with the class.

2. **In the Name of Poetry.** Ms. Glass shows her students how to make poems out of their names by writing the letters in a column and then thinking of a descriptive word or phrase for each letter. Help your students compose (that's a fancy word for write) their own name poems!

3. **Pictures in Words.** Review limericks and odes with your students. Ask students to try writing one of these two types of poetry with the objective (a fancy way of saying goal) of making a picture in words. Have students read their poems aloud to the class with lots of emotion (that's another word for feeling).

4. **Our Poet-Tree.** Create a class poet-tree to show off your students' work! Design several different leaf templates (a fancy way of saying patterns) for students to trace and cut out on construction paper. Ask students to put their poems from the two previous activities on construction paper leaves and hang them on your class tree. Then set up a classroom of inspiration with beautiful, soft music and refreshments to help motivate students to create an additional original poem to add to the poet-tree. Do not assign a form, structure, or topic for these original poems—just let your students express themselves freely!

5. **Songs Are Poems, Too.** Mr. Clancy's favorite poem is "Blowin' in the Wind" by Bob Dylan, while Mrs. Clancy's favorite is "Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe. Have small groups of students take turns reading these poems aloud, alternating the reader after every two lines. Then play song recordings of these poems for your class. For "Blowin' in the Wind" you could use the original version by Bob Dylan or one of the many cover recordings by artists such as Dolly Parton; Peter, Paul and Mary; or Stevie Wonder. "Annabel Lee" has been set to music by Joan Baez and Fiddler's Green, among others. As a class, discuss how hearing a poem set to music changes how you think about the lyrics and their meaning.

6. **Fancy Anthologies.** Nancy collects her favorite poems in an anthology (a *très* fancy word for collection), and your students can do the same! Have each student decorate the cover of a notebook to make it fancy and then fill the book's pages with his or her favorite poems, like Nancy does in *Fancy Nancy: Poet Extraordinaire!* Nancy wishes she had a poem about a tea party in her anthology. What do your students most wish for in a poem? Challenge students to find a poem about their favorite thing and include it in their anthologies.



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