

# Slam Poetry Unit

Mr. Pelz

Grab your journals.  
Get something to write with.  
Sit in pairs up front!

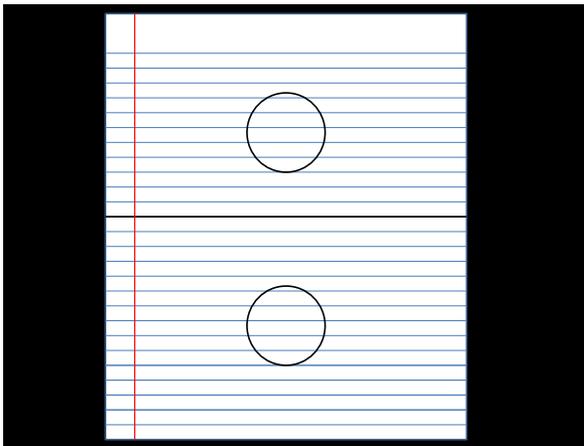
"Sticks and stones may break  
your bones but words will  
always teach you."

-Shihan



## The Breakdown

- Week 1: Language/poetic techniques
  - What is Poetry? Why Poetry?
  - Speaking with conviction
  - Power of words
  - Simile/metaphor
- Week 2: Poetic techniques/writing
- Week 3: Poetic techniques/writing
- Week 4: Writing/performance
- Week 5: Performance techniques
- Week 6: Rehearse and perform



Describe Poetry... adjectives, images, feelings, vocabulary, techniques, poets



Why study poetry?



## Why Poetry?

Steve Colman – I Wanna Hear a Poem

- 4 I wanna **learn something I didn't know.**
- 5 I wanna **say YES at the end,**
- 6 because **I'm sick of saying so?**
  - 8 I wanna hear a poem about **who you are,**
  - 9 and **what you think,**

Daniel Beatty – Knock Knock

- 31 And so, 25 years later, I **write these words**
- 32 **for the little boy in me** who still awaits his Papa's knock.
  - 46 And 25 years later, a little boy cries.
  - 47 And so I **write these words and try to heal**

Taylor Mali – Totally Like Whatever, You Know?

- 4 it has somehow become **uncool**
- 5 to sound like **you know what you're talking about?**
- 6 Or **believe strongly** in what you're saying?
  - 20 What has happened to our **conviction?**
  - 21 Where are the limbs out on which we once walked?

I entreat you, I implore you, I exhort you,

I **challenge** you:

To **speak** with **conviction.**

To **say what you believe**  
in a manner that bespeaks  
the determination with which you believe it.

Because **contrary** to the **wisdom** of the bumper sticker,

it is **not enough** these days to simply **QUESTION AUTHORITY.**

**You have to speak with it, too.**

Abstract Language

Concrete Language