

Introduction

The American poet Emily Dickinson, who lived in the 1800s, once compared poetry to possibility, and that seems like a good comparison, because poetry uses a set of tools called figurative language to show how words can mean many different things, depending on how you use them. Poets write about all sorts of subjects, from how they feel to what they believe, from questions they have to their dreams for themselves and the world. In this unit, you will study poems written by men and women from different countries and time periods. You'll learn how to read poems aloud and how to figure out what possibilities each poem holds. You'll also learn how to recognize the tools poets use and to use them in poems of your own. We hope you'll enjoy learning all about these possibilities!

Now let's get started!