



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

[www.museumofpatriotism.org](http://www.museumofpatriotism.org)

## “America’s Poems”

Grades: 6-8  
English

### **Objective**

- 1 Read a poem and paraphrase it
- 2 Define and use examples of poetic terms
- 3 Write a poem.

### **Character Education Words**

- 1 Creativity
- 2 Individuality
- 3 Patriotism

### **Teachers Overview**

- 1 Certain poems define or describe America or America’s past. Students will read selection of poems that do this in some fashion.
- 2 Students will write how the poems accomplish this and what poetic devices do they use in the process.

### **Materials**

- 1 This website can be a very helpful resource:  
[http://ajmatthews.com/Patriotic\\_Poems\\_index.html](http://ajmatthews.com/Patriotic_Poems_index.html)
- 2 All the poems listed and more can be found on the website.  
“America” – William Cullen Bryant  
“An Army Corps on the March” – Walt Whitman  
“The Antiquity of Freedom” – William Cullen Bryant  
“Flower of Liberty” – Oliver Wendell Holmes  
“Freedom is a Habit” – Carl Sandburg  
“God Save The Flag” – Oliver Wendell Holmes
- 3 Internet access and printers
- 4 Paper and pens
- 5 Board or overhead

### **Introduction**

- 3 Read a portion of "Oh Captain, My Captain" by Walt Whitman to the class
- 4 Have students close eyes during reading and then create a pictorial description of the poem
- 5 Students may share with the class

### **Activities**

- 1 Divide class into six groups.
- 2 Assign a poem to each group.
- 3 Have them list patriotic words in the poem
- 4 Identify the different poetic devices that are used in the poem – simile, metaphor, personification, repetition, and other various devices.
- 5 Share with class and record

### **Independent Practice/Reflection**

- 1 Have students write a personal response to the poems read in class. Which poem affected your emotions the most? If none did, explain why you think you were unaffected by these poems.

### **Assessment**

- 3 Ask the student to write a patriotic poem using the list of words that were discussed at the beginning of class as a guide. They should use at least five words from the list.
- 4 Have student write a paragraph explaining the different poetic devices they used in their poem.

### **Enrichment**

Students may memorize one of the poems for extra credit.