



Some more information on **Teaching students to be strategic readers** (You'll thank me some day.)

Before Reading a Poem...

direct your attention to various features in this way:

- Here's a poem with an *abcb* rhyme scheme (or whatever rhyme scheme it has)
- This free verse poem includes repetition that adds to the rhythm of it. (free verse doesn't rhyme)
- The rhythm of this poem makes me feel like I'm... floating...running, skipping, galloping...
- Listen for any words in this poem that are interesting or unfamiliar to you.
- Visualize the images the poem creates as you listen to it.

After reading or rereading...

ask questions about certain features to guide understanding:

- Did you hear any examples of repetition (alliteration, etc)?
- Which of your senses did this poem appeal to, and what words or phrases contributed to that?
- Name the metaphor or simile (or other figure of speech) in this poem.
- How effective are the line breaks in this poem? What is their impact?"
- What is the rhyme scheme used in this poem?
- How does this poem make you feel? What is its tone, mood, or theme?
- Is this written in free verse or end rhyme? What rhythm do you feel?

--from *Poetry Lessons* by Kathy Perfect