

# Poetry Detectives

"Invocation" by George Ella Lyon is so rich, and so full of passion and masterful technique that it demands to be studied closely. But don't be scared! In this activity, we will help you become a poetry detective and show you how to study a poem closely, so you can savor every single word.

**Directions:** Read the poem and then follow the prompts. Write your answers on a separate piece of paper.

pen, open poem.      ←..... **1.** In what way does a pen "open" a poem?

paper, pave the way.

ink, give me inklings

in your dark tongue      ←..... **2.** What is the dark tongue?  
what to say.

letter, let me draw you  
out to shape us,  
close to hold.

word, breathe me onward  
into mysteries untold.      ←..... **3.** What mysteries is the author referring to?

sound, sing me deeper  
where the soul is so inclined  
that if pen open poem,  
poem will open  
heart and minds.

←..... **4.** How do poems open hearts and minds?