

Read. Think. Explain.

In trying to understand a poem, it's important to read through it carefully and thoughtfully by focusing on the words the author chose *and* by thinking about what the images in the poem represent. In this activity, you'll answer a series of questions about Tony Mitton's "Instructions for Growing Poetry" in order to grasp the poem's full meaning.

Directions: Answer the questions below, using information and details from the poem to back up your ideas.

1. What is the main thing this poem asks readers to do? What are some of its specific instructions?

2. In what ways does this poem suggest that poetry comes from both inside and outside of us?

3. How does the illustration on the page fit with the poem? What might the child in the picture write about in a poem?

4. What would your instructions be for growing poetry?
