

THE INCONTESTABLE VALUE OF TEACHING POETRY

by:

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While some may view poetry as a relic of the past or an arcane art form, its importance cannot be belittled for beyond its aesthetic appeal is a powerful tool for cultivating creativity, critical thinking, empathy, and emotional intelligence. Poetry, often considered the language of the soul, holds a unique place in the realm of literature and education.

According to Barkley (2016), there are justifications why poetry is worthy for an individual's soul. At its core, poetry is an expression of the human experience extracted into words. It helps in cognitive understanding of words and teaches the art of creative expression for students are encouraged to explore their creativity and develop their unique voice through the process of crafting their own poems. Students communicate complex ideas empowered with a wide range of stylistic devices, structures, language, and form.

Poetry helps in comprehending the substance of words themselves. Analyzing poetry requires students to delve beneath the surface and uncover layers of meaning. Whether deciphering symbolism or unraveling the intricacies of poetic language, students are challenged to think critically and interpret texts. This analytical approach not only enhances reading comprehension but also sharpens the ability to deconstruct and evaluate information – a crucial skill in today's information-rich society.

Also, poetry has the remarkable ability to evoke a wide range of emotions and elicit empathy from readers. By exploring poems that capture diverse perspectives, experiences, and emotions, students develop a deeper understanding of the human

condition and the complexities of the world around them. They will learn to appreciate the diversity of human experiences and foster a sense of connection with others, promoting a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Moreover, poetry offers students a window into different historical periods and literary traditions. By studying poems from various cultures and time periods, students gain insight into different belief systems and historical contexts, fostering cultural literacy and global awareness. Furthermore, exploring the works of diverse poets allows students to recognize the universality of human emotions and experiences, bridging gaps of understanding and fostering a sense of interconnectedness.

The importance of teaching poetry in schools extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. By nurturing creativity, stimulating critical thinking, fostering empathy, and connecting students across cultures and time, poetry serves as a gateway to understanding ourselves and the world around us. As educators, it is our responsibility to harness the transformative power of poetry and equip our students with the skills and insights they need to navigate an ever-changing world with wisdom and compassion.

References:

Barkley, K. (2021, February 11). 8 Reasons Why Poetry Is Good for the Soul. *Writer's Digest*. <https://www.writersdigest.com/whats-new/8-reasons-why-poetry-is-good-for-the-soul>