VR Exploration: Poetry
Teacher Guide & Student Resources

About This Unit

As part of efforts to provide a rich multimedia learning experience, please be advised that this lesson contains links to third-party content including but not limited to videos and websites.Content controlled by third-party sources may contain promotional material (ads, sign-ups, related content) and may be updated or changed at any time. Please preview all third- party links in advance and make sure they are appropriate for your classroom.

In this unit, students will explore the power of poetry as a writing medium. The essential question students will be considering throughout the unit is: *How do great poems receive such strong scenery in such a small space?* The "Exploring Poetry in Nature" is intended to be taught first as an introduction to the four key topics. It offers students a chance to connect with key academic skills in a real-world context and apply their understanding in crafting poems of their own.

Exploring Poetry in Nature
This hook lesson is designed to capture student attention and introduce the four topics covered in this unit.

Vocabulary of Nature
This lesson will guide students in analyzing figurative language often used in poems as well as vocabulary that can enhance its meaning.

Conjuring the Senses
This lesson will guide students in exploring the five senses and how they are incorporated into poems to engage readers before applying their understanding in a poem of their own. Students will also consider how differently senses can be perceived.

The Many Forms of Poetry
This lesson will give students an understanding of three different forms of poetry, and identifying their features. Students will also consider using poetry in unconventional ways.

Ode to the Simple Things
This lesson will guide student in learning about odes and the type of language they use. Students will practice using metaphors to compare two different objects.

Materials & Preparation

Prior Knowledge Necessary For This Unit:

1. N/A

<u>Unit Preparation:</u>

1. Before teaching, preview all lessons, web articles, and video content in this unit.
2. Review and print the additional resources below. Distribute them at the appropriate stages of the unit.
3. Consider assigning strategic student groups to facilitate more structured and collaborative discussions throughout the unit.
4. This unit utilizes the new Nearpod VR Pano-tours. Carefully read the directions below before teaching this unit.
5. Every lesson in this unit includes Nearpod VR, so feel free to use virtual reality headsets if you have them (but they are not required).

<u>Lesson-specific Preparation:</u>

1. <u>Exploring Poetry in Nature</u> Prepare VR headsets if you have them (optional). Be sure to print out the "Poetry in Nature" worksheet before teaching this lesson. You may want to assign partners ahead of the lesson as well. Additional poems for use in extension activities or homework can be found in the website provided as an additional resource at the end of the lesson.
2. <u>Vocabulary of Nature:</u> Prepare VR headsets if you have them (optional).
3. <u>Conjuring the Senses</u>: Prepare VR headsets if you have them (optional).
4. <u>The Many Forms of Poetry:</u> Prepare VR headsets if you have them (optional). The first poem used in this lesson, "The Highwayman," by Alfred Noyes, is quite long. Consider asking students to read or listen to this poem online before class. It may require some vocabulary work as well for unfamiliar words.
5. <u>Ode to the Simple Things:</u> Prepare VR headsets if you have them (optional).

Additional Resources

All additional resources required for this unit are included in the chart below. Also note that each worksheet is included as a PDF at the end of every lesson. All resources are required to support student learning and facilitate active engagement in the lesson's activities. Plan to print and distribute before teaching.

Lesson	Resource	Notes
Exploring Poetry in Nature	Poetry in Nature Worksheet	
Exploring Poetry in Nature	Poetry Foundation catalog	*More poems are available, ranging in length and rigor, on the website listed if you ever wish to assign different poems than the ones provided for this or any other lesson in the bundle. You may also use these for an extension activity.

Nearpod VR Introduces Panotour

What Are Panotours?

Panotours, made using the software Panotour Pro, merge panoramic images into one connected VR experience. In our current VR experience, students can explore one panoramic image at a time. In the new version using Panotours, students can navigate from one image to another by clicking on hotspots. This way, students can visit multiple sites without leaving the VR portal. For example, a panoramic map might serve as a control center where students can click on individual sites, record evidence and explore at each site, and then return to the control center to explore the remaining sites.

The first stop students will experience is the Control Center:

How do you navigate from one location to another?

The juxtaposition of stop 1 (normal VR panorama) and the world map helps to ensure students are comparing and contrasting across the panoramic images as well as providing a more wholesome, narrative experience to VR. Panotours can stitch together sites that are related geographically, thematically, temporally, or any other relationship that can drive deeper investigative inquiry for students. Students might be looking for the same evidence across all sites (like in the example below) or each site might have a designated task.
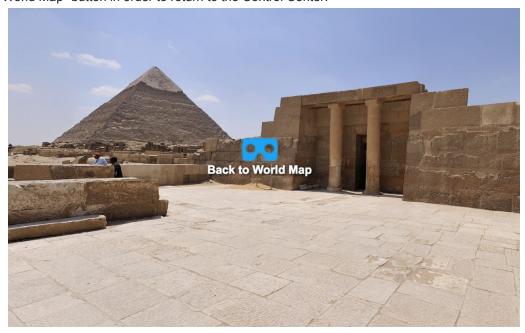
How does Panotour work across mobile devices?

The VR images themselves respond to devices' accelerometer when applicable and are fully functional in Nearpod VR headsets as well. Navigating to the next site is as simple as locating the hotspot and tapping/clicking on it. The cool part is that because students are navigating these sites independently, students can analyze at their own depth and pace. Often, Panotours are accompanied by worksheets to document evidence, and students' responses are collected and analyzed as a group after completion using Nearpod features like Collaborate/OEQ's.

Panotour examples:
This example shows one of the panoramic stops along the pantour journey. Students will need to locate the "Back to World Map" button in order to return to the Control Center.

In this example, when students navigate the market they are taking inventory of the products at each store:

In this example, the control center is a panoramic experience and students need to find the buttons to enter each new virtual environment.