

Teaching Notes

The goal of RL.4.5 is for students to be able to explain major differences between poetry, drama, and prose and to identify the structural elements that distinguish these three types of literature. The following information contains ideas and resources that teachers can incorporate into their classroom for additional practice.

Activities

1. Refer to the Applying the Standard activity in the module. Ask the students who chose to write dramas to volunteer to have the class perform their works. Choose students to serve as actors and the writer to serve as director. After the performance, evaluate and discuss how the stage directions written by the student in the drama were helpful.
2. Read the poem “The Voice” by Shel Silverstein (<http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-voice-34/>) to the class. Write the first two or three lines of the poem on the board and ask students to determine the rhythm and meter of the poem by underlining the stressed syllables.

Writing Prompts

1. Not all poems include rhyme. Briefly discuss with students how a poem can include rhythm and meter but no rhyme. (You may wish to provide examples of blank verse poems, such as Robert Frost’s “Mending Wall.”) Then, instruct students to write a poem of at least twelve lines and two stanzas containing no rhyming lines. After they have completed the prompt, discuss whether non-rhyming poetry is more or less difficult to write than poetry containing rhyme.
2. Instruct students to choose a play from the book *Children’s Classics in Dramatic Form* (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16379/16379-h/16379-h.htm>) or from another source. After students have chosen their play, have them rewrite the play as a work of prose. Then have students compare and contrast the features of each form of the story.

Additional Resource

Consider this resource when teaching RL.4.5:

“Poems to Play with in Class”: This resource gives ideas and strategies for teaching about poetry as well as a number of grade-appropriate poems to use for instruction.

- http://schools.nyc.gov/documents/teachandlearn/poems_to_play_with_in_class_final.pdf