

Seed Poets 2012-13 – Some Evaluation Results

100 % want to have the poet visit classroom in the future

90 % learned something about their student’s capabilities/ emotional life

95% agree that students were inspired by the poet’s lessons, and students learned about poetry writing

50% would like students to learn **more** about oral presentation

Some comments:

“Very unique way of getting my ‘low’ students to write” ~3rd grade teacher

“We can’t wait to display our work at the Poetry & Art Café in May” ~ 3rd Grade teacher, San Mateo County

“Poet has a good rapport with the students and was very easy to work with.” ~7th grade teacher, Alameda County

“Visiting poet is a breath of fresh air and a joy to have in the classroom. She is patient. She is kind. Her work is inspirational.” ~HS teacher, Ventura Co.

“It was nice to see students who have difficulty with fundamental writing skills able to freely create their own poetry. This was a session where the poet was able to help students be introspective and creative. We were surprised at what we learned about students as individuals.” ~ Middle school teacher, Siskiyou Co.

“The poet manages to make students feel comfortable with the idea of exploring poetry as a form of personal expression and communication. It is always refreshing to have the students engaged and eager to work.” ~ HS teacher, Siskiyou Co.

“No wrong answers and students not forced, just gentle prompts with minimal guidelines.” ~Middle school teacher, Siskiyou Co.

“I like how [the visiting poet] referred to the students as ‘young poets’ and how there are different perspectives.” ~Middle school teacher, Siskiyou Co.

Overall the Seed Poet program was very successful at Everett MS. It allowed me to not only bring poetry to students who were craving writing enrichment, but also to form and cultivate a relationship with a school, students, teachers, and an after-

school program. The experience was also valuable in a local-cultural sense, since Everett is located in my neighborhood. I was able to connect with students on that level of shared experience and use it to bolster our use of language.

~Poet-teacher, San Francisco County

“Students really enjoyed a new voice/face, and we’d love to repeat the experience!” ~ K-5 teacher, Mendocino Co

“Visiting poet was a breath of new air. My students had never encountered his like before!” ~HS teacher, El Dorado County

“Very, very cool!” ~ 4th grade teacher, Oakland

“I am a special education teacher at an elementary school in Yolo County...My students are mainstreamed in regular ed classes, however they are performing well below grade level and several of them are English language learners as well. I did not have high expectations for the poetry lesson and was pleasantly surprised at the outcome. Not only did they participate and each produce a poem, they enjoyed the process and sharing their poems by standing up and reading them. That alone, for a student that is on the autism spectrum, is quite remarkable.” / “I would recommend the experience for special education classrooms, as well as general ed classes. The English learners acquired new vocabulary words from the experience which has carried over to their everyday speech. All-in-all the experience was especially positive. Thank you for providing the opportunity for my students.” (Joanne Bevins, M.Ed.)

“[poet teacher] did a beautiful job presenting. She was prepared and had control of the students behavior. She created a safe environment for the students which allowed them to write and express themselves beautifully.” ~4th grade teacher, Humboldt

“I loved her rapport with students. Students responded well to her lessons.” ~5th grade teacher, San Benito County

“Warm, expressive, positive. She even brought stuffed animals to inspire poetry!” ~ 3rd grade teacher, San Diego

“[poet teacher] was great! I teach poetry every year but without the level of understanding about the craft or the process of writing. He has an impressive array of poetry he recites.” ~HS teacher, Humboldt Co.