



## POETRY TEKS FOR FIFTH GRADE 110.11(b)(4)

In sharing poetry with fifth graders, we support their expanding vocabularies, promote a playful awareness of words and language, and develop their confidence in comprehending texts of all kinds.

First we focus on enjoyment and understanding, then we guide students in responding to poetry in various forms.

In sharing poetry aloud and in print, we can **guide students in understanding how sound effects such as alliteration, internal rhyme, onomatopoeia, and rhyme scheme help reinforce meaning in a poem.**

In fun and participatory ways, we can celebrate poetry while gently introducing and reinforcing key skills.

### WEEK 4: PETS

### FIFTH GRADE

#### Take 5!

#### WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE . . .

by Ann Whitford Paul

What's the opposite of racing everywhere?  
Dozing, composed on an easy chair.  
What's the opposite of leaping for a treat?  
Inspecting before one deigns to eat.  
What's the opposite of a noisy yip-yap bark?  
A whispery soft, purred remark.  
All of this then settles that  
the opposite of dog is cat!

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Learn more about Ann at [annwhitfordpaul.net](http://annwhitfordpaul.net).

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1. Read this poem aloud using **a louder, faster voice for lines 1, 3, 5, and 7, and a softer, slower voice for lines 2, 4, 6, and 8.** You might need to explain some words, such as *deign*.

2. Next, display the words of the poem and **invite the cat lovers to read lines 2, 4, 6, and 8** (in "cat" voices) **and the dog lovers to read lines 1, 3, 5, and 7** (in "dog" voices).

3. **Survey students about their preferences for dogs vs. cats.**

4. Sometimes poets use words that mimic sounds, which is called *onomatopoeia*. Challenge the students to find examples in this poem (*yip-yap*) and talk about how that affects the meaning of the poem. **We sometimes use one word to describe making a sound (such as *purr*) and another word to describe the sound itself (*meow*).** Use this poem to explore this concept further (*purr*; *yip-yap*).

5. Connect this poem with "**Rough and Tumble**" by **Lesléa Newman** (2nd Grade, Week 30, page 136), or selections from *A Curious Collection of Cats* by Betsy Franco.