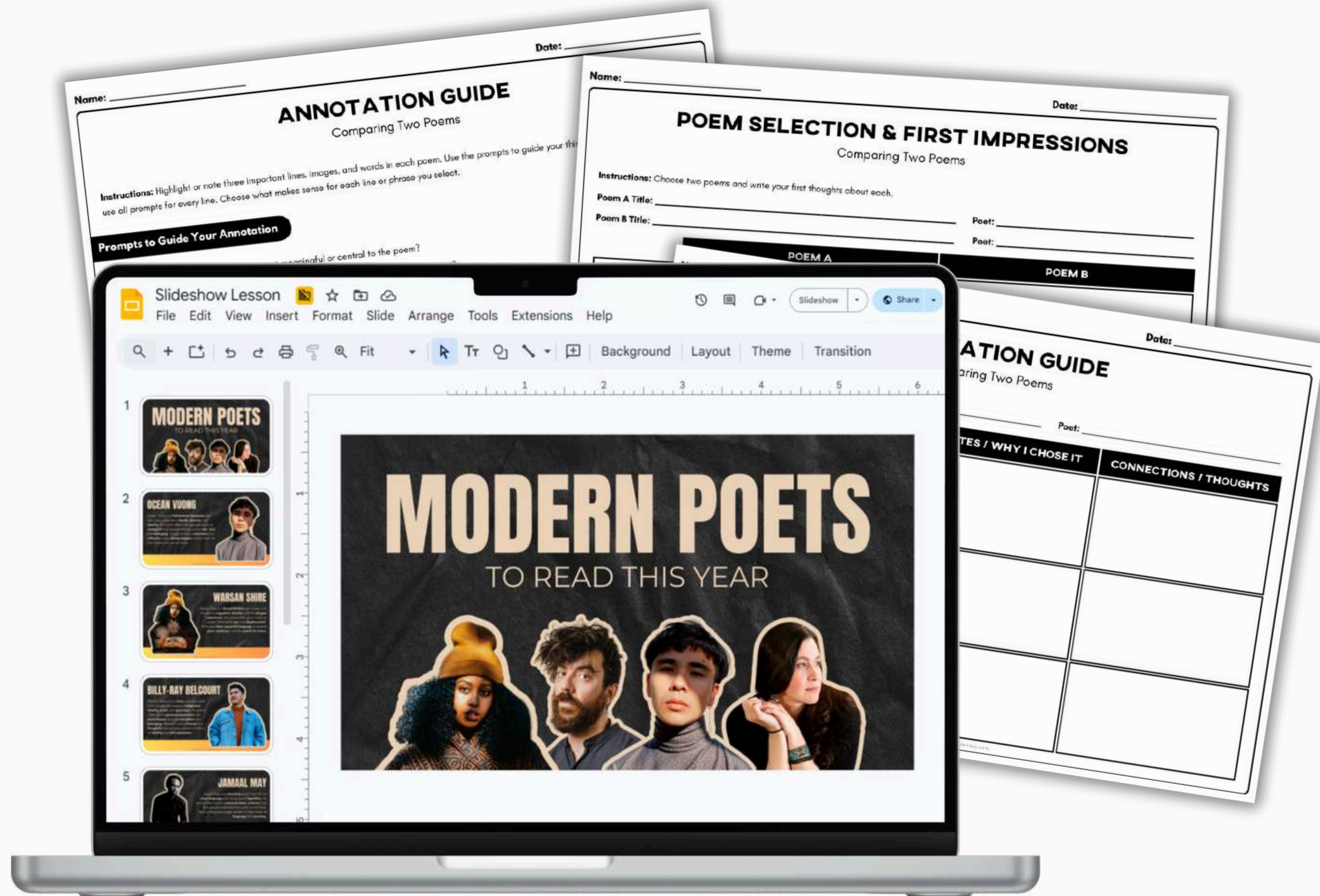


# Modern Poets Mini-Unit

Build poetry comprehension skills with this modern poetry playlist mini-unit!



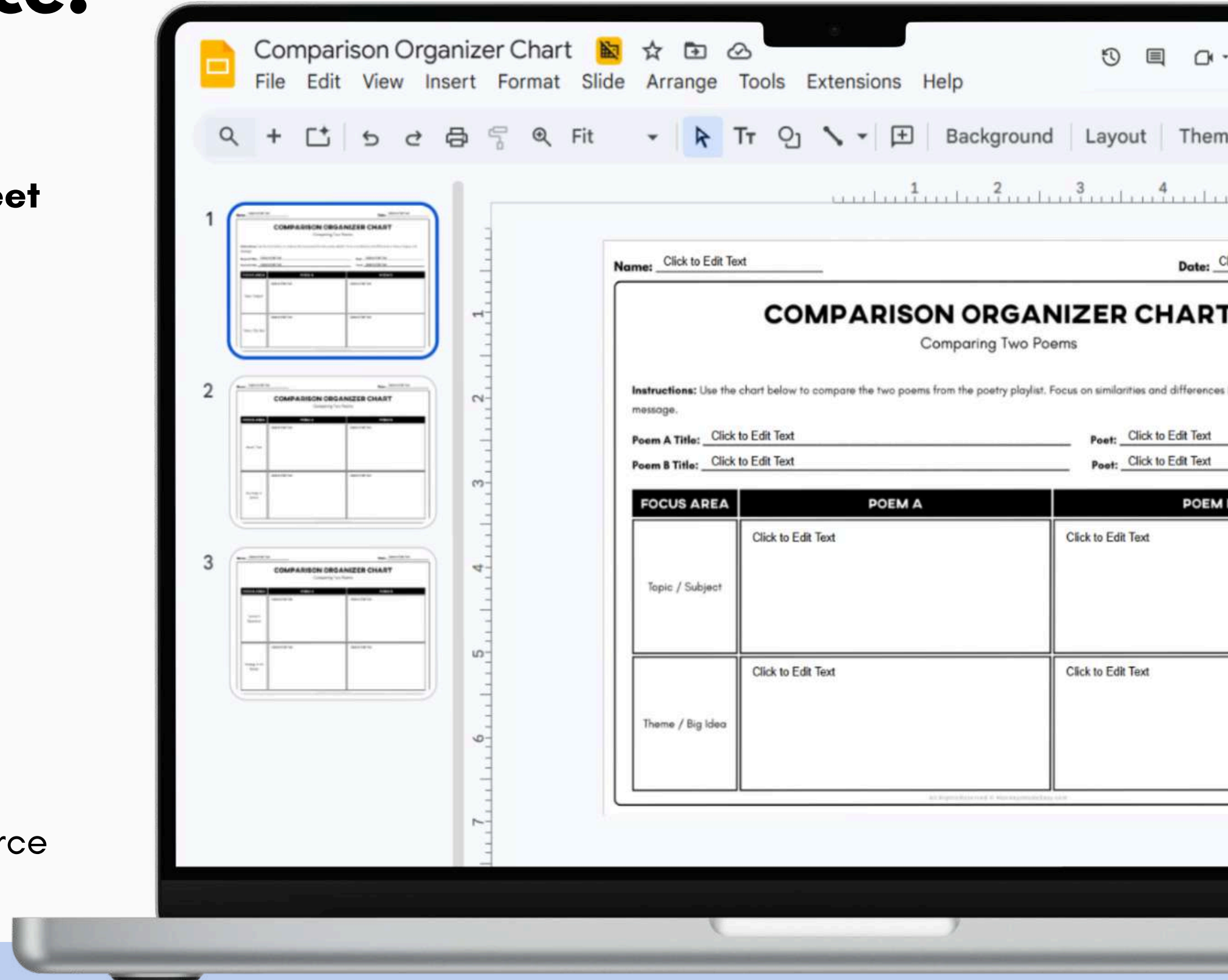
- **Introduce students to diverse contemporary poets** while building background knowledge on identity, migration, and modern poetic themes.
- **Guide close reading and textual evidence analysis** through annotation prompts and targeted comparison graphic organizers.
- **Extend learning** with creative and analytical projects that deepen interpretation and connect poetry to writing, art, and music.

Teach poetry comprehension through modern, trending poets

**PURCHASE HERE**

# Included with this resource:

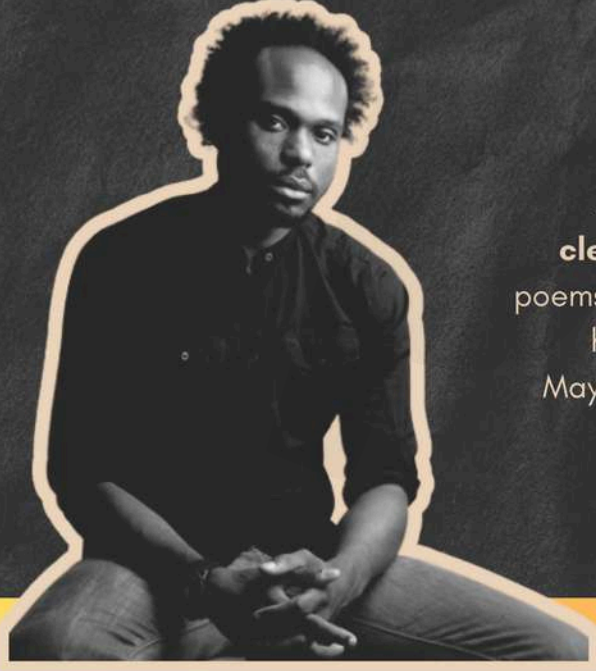
- ✓ Modern Poets **Slideshow Lesson**
- ✓ **Poem Selection & First Impressions Worksheet**
- ✓ **Annotation Guide** with Prompts
- ✓ Comparison **Graphic Organizer**
- ✓ Poem Comparison **Writing Framework**
- ✓ **Reflection Questions**
- ✓ **6 Extension Activities**
- ✓ **Student Examples** to Model Expectations
- ✓ **Teacher Instructions** for how to use this resource



Includes Digital Version for Google Drive®

# Modern Poets Slideshow Lesson

Introduce students to trending contemporary poets such as Ocean Vuong, Warsan Shire, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Ilya Kaminsky, and others



## JAMAAL MAY

Jamaal May is an **American** poet known for his **clear language** and strong use of **repetition**. His poems often explore **communication, violence**, and how people understand the world around them. May's writing encourages readers to look closely at

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## WARSAN SHIRE

Warsan Shire is a **Somali British** poet whose work focuses on **migration, identity**, and the **refugee experience**. Her poems often give a voice to people affected by **war** and **displacement**. Shire uses **clear, powerful language** to express **pain, resilience**, and the **search for home**.

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# MODERN POETS

TO READ THIS YEAR

## OCEAN VUONG


Ocean Vuong is a **Vietnamese American** poet who often writes about **family, memory**, and **identity**. His poetry reflects his experiences as an **immigrant** and explores themes such as **war, love**, and **belonging**. Vuong's writing is **emotional** and **reflective**, using **strong imagery** to show how the past shapes who we are today.

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## BILLY-RAY BELCOURT

and writer  
**ous**  
his poetry  
e and  
n and  
est and  
**thoughtful**, encouraging readers to reflect on **identity** and **self-expression**.



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# Poetry Playlist Guided Reading Activities

Students will select and annotate two poems from the playlist provided



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNOTATION GUIDE

Comparing Two Poems

Poem A Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

LINE / PHRASE	PROMPT FOCUS	NOTES / WHY I CHOSE IT	CONNECTIONS / THOUGHTS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### POEM SELECTION & FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Comparing Two Poems

Instructions: Choose two poems and write your first thoughts about each.

Poem A Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

Poem B Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

	POEM A	POEM B
First Impressions <i>Word/phrase that stood out</i>		
Initial Reactions <i>How the poem made you feel</i>		
One-Sentence Summary		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNOTATION GUIDE

Comparing Two Poems

Instructions: Highlight or note three important lines, images, and words in each poem. Use the prompts to guide your thinking, but you do not need to use all prompts for every line. Choose what makes sense for each line or phrase you select.

**Prompts to Guide Your Annotation**

- **Important line:** Which line seems most meaningful or central to the poem?
- **Imagery / Symbol:** What images or objects stand out? What might they represent?
- **Emotion:** How does the poem make you feel in this line or section?
- **Question / Confusion:** What do you not understand or want to know more about?
- **Interesting word or phrase:** Which words are unusual, powerful, or striking?

**TIPS:**

- Pick only the prompts that make sense for the line or phrase you choose.
- Some lines may fit multiple prompts — that's okay.
- Focus on the parts that stand out most to you.
- Write short, clear notes in your own words.
- Look for patterns, repeated words, or contrasting ideas between the poems.

Includes curated playlist of modern poems!

# Poem Comparison Activity and Written Response

Students will analyze similarities and differences in theme, structure, mood, and message

**INCLUDES REFLECTION PROMPTS!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPARISON WRITING FRAME

Comparing Two Poems

**Instructions:** Use the sentence frames below to write a short paragraph comparing the two poems from the poetry playlist.

Poem A Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_  
Poem B Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

Both \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_  
explore the idea of \_\_\_\_\_.

One similarity between the two poems is that both \_\_\_\_\_.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Comparing Two Poems

**Instructions:** Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

1 Which poem did you connect with more? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Comparing Two Poems

What did comparing these two poems help you understand? (Think about identity, culture, emotions, or experiences.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPARISON ORGANIZER CHART

Comparing Two Poems

	POEM A	POEM B
Mood / Tone		
Key Image or Symbol		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPARISON ORGANIZER CHART

Comparing Two Poems

AREA	POEM A	POEM B
Structure		
Language		
Style		
Message		
Effect on the Reader		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPARISON ORGANIZER CHART

Comparing Two Poems

**Instructions:** Use the chart below to compare the two poems from the poetry playlist. Focus on similarities and differences in ideas, imagery, and message.

Poem A Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_  
Poem B Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Poet: \_\_\_\_\_

FOCUS AREA	POEM A	POEM B
Topic / Subject		
Theme / Big Idea		

Use the **comparison graphic organizer** and **writing framework** provided!

# Includes 6 Extension Activities

Extend learning with creative and analytical projects that deepen interpretation and connect poetry to writing, art, and music!

**POEM & SONG COMPARISON CHART**  
Poem and Song Comparison

**Instructions:** Compare your selected poem from the poetry playlist with the classroom-appropriate song lyrics you found by focusing on one shared idea or emotion.

**Poem A Title:** Click to Edit Text      **Poet:** Click to Edit Text

**Song Title:** Click to Edit Text      **Artist:** Click to Edit Text

ELEMENT	POEM	SONG
Important line or lyric	Click to Edit Text	Click to Edit Text
Mood or tone	Click to Edit Text	Click to Edit Text
Message or meaning	Click to Edit Text	Click to Edit Text
Key word or phrase	Click to Edit Text	Click to Edit Text
What this shows	Click to Edit Text	Click to Edit Text

**Blackout Poetry**  
Instructional Handout

**What is a Blackout Poetry?**

**Blackout poetry** (also called found poetry) is a creative activity where students take an existing text, such as a poem, article, or speech and create a new poem by blocking out or crossing out words, leaving behind a smaller selection that forms a new meaning.

**Students do not add new words. Creativity comes from:**

- selecting meaningful words
- deciding what to remove

**POEM SELECTION & VISUAL FOCUS**  
Poetry Art

**Instructions:** Choose a poem and the line, image, or theme you want to represent visually. Write why it stands out to you.

**Poem A Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Poet:** \_\_\_\_\_

PROMPT	RESPONSE
Line, image, or theme I want to represent visually	

**STORY OUTLINE**  
Poem-Inspired Short Story

**Instructions:** Plan your story by outlining what happens at the beginning, middle, and end.

STORY PART	PLANNING
<b>Beginning</b> Introduce the setting and character(s).	
<b>Middle</b> Describe the main event or conflict inspired by the poem.	
<b>End</b> Show what changes or what the character realizes.	

**STORY DRAFT**  
Poem-Inspired Short Story

**Instructions:** Write your short story. Focus on one moment, emotion, or image inspired by the poem.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Includes **rubrics** and **sample answers!**