

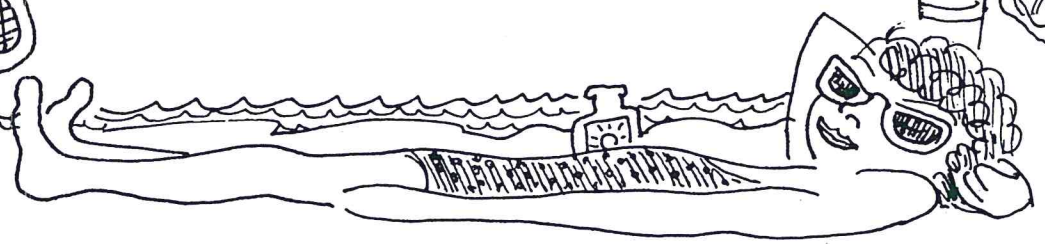
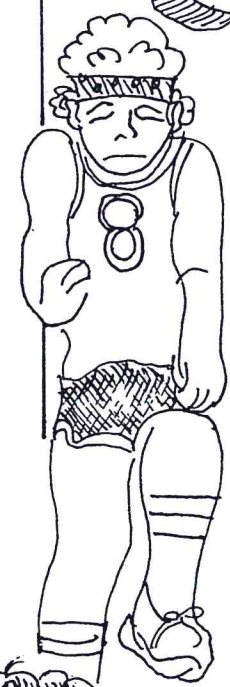
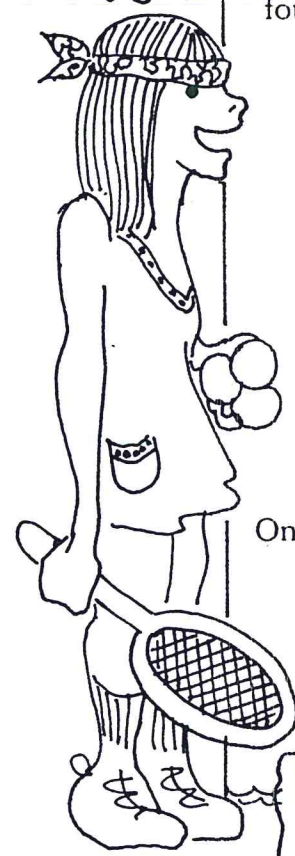
### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### PERSONAL POETRY

★ As the name suggests, personal poetry is a form of free verse which capitalizes on those things we prize, cherish, or in which we have an abiding interest. Because of its focus, this form of verse spans the developmental ages of students quite well. It also taps the language experiences of children nicely as they try to create the most powerful statements for their interests. Students know best those words which have very special appeal and characterize their interests. Those words evoke certain associations, memories, or emotions connected with their special interests. When implemented as a whole class activity the strategy for teaching the writing of interest poetry consists of four steps:

- 1) Focusing on an interest and discussing it thoroughly
- 2) Brainstorming for all the words and phrases which characterize the interest
- 3) Selecting the most powerful words and phrases and arranging them in a pleasing order
- 4) Writing the finished verse and reading it.

Once introduced, the students can be encouraged to write their own interest poetry.



### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

#### Sample class effort:

1. Focus: Baseball
2. Ideas generated in brainstorming:

power hitters  
 all-American sport  
 strike  
 grand slam  
 diamond  
 triple play  
 you're out  
 the old ball game  
 hoarse shouting - wild cheers  
 foul ball

slugger's row  
 souvenirs  
 hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn  
 the umpire's blind  
 kill the umpire  
 rabid, loyal fans  
 sunburned bleacherites  
 America's passion  
 hometown heroes  
 \*Doubleday's diamond

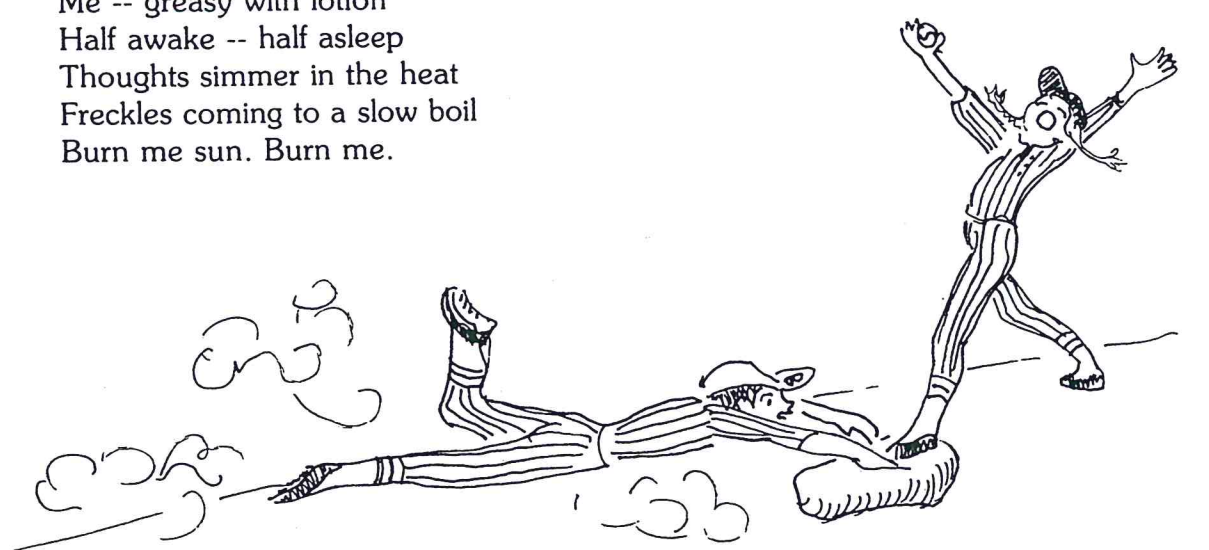
\*(Abner Doubleday invented baseball in 1830, in Cooperstown, New York.)

3. Final interest poem

Baseball  
 The old ball game  
 All-American sport  
 Sunburned bleacherites  
 Hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn  
 Hoarse shouting -- wild cheers  
 Strike, foul ball, "Kill the umpire!"  
 Hometown heroes -- slugger's row  
 Grand slam!  
 Doubleday's diamond  
 America's passion.

Here is another interest poem with a different focus:

Sunbathing  
 Welcome! I missed you for so many months  
 Come warm my spirit, sun  
 Creep into my flesh  
 Me -- greasy with lotion  
 Half awake -- half asleep  
 Thoughts simmer in the heat  
 Freckles coming to a slow boil  
 Burn me sun. Burn me.





PERSONAL POETRY

SPOTLIGHTING AN INTEREST -- WITH POETRY

Personal poetry is a form of free verse which emphasizes personal interests! Here is an opportunity to write a poem which will highlight a keen interest of yours.

1. Name an interest of yours. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Now write as many words and phrases which come to your mind about your interest.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

3. Use the work space below to "play around" with the words and phrases. Think carefully about what would sound best first, in the middle, and at the end. Remember the first line is the word you wrote in step #1. Make your poem as short or as long as you wish.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. When you are satisfied with your poem, write it in your best writing on the back of this sheet and illustrate it.

