

NYBG/125

IMPRESSIONISM: AMERICAN GARDENS ON CANVAS POETRY FOR EVERY SEASON POETRY WALK

Teacher Outdoor Self-Guide

Poetry for Every Season Overview

The rise of Impressionism in the United States during the late 19th century coincided with the emergence of a new interest in the transformative effects of nature. Intimate outdoor scenes in private gardens and public parks inspired many of the artists of the period. Their literary colleagues, who often gardened at the same art colonies as painters and sculptors, were similarly inspired by cultivated oases.

Nestled in the Garden landscape you will find a selection of poems by influential writers, many of whom visited art colonies. Curated by contemporary poet Sophie Cabot Black, these poems reflect an appreciation for the natural world that permeated creative life during this period.

Before Your Visit

An effective Garden field trip begins with careful planning and preparation. Download the Poetry for Every Season: *IMPRESSIONISM: AMERICAN GARDENS ON CANVAS* Outdoor Self-Guided Visit Pre-/Post-Visit Activities sheet for suggested lesson plan ideas to align with your classroom curriculum.

Take advantage of the free “Teacher Pre-Trip Pass” to visit the displays of plants which inspire art, and experience the Poetry Walk for yourself before bringing your class.

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants in beautiful displays. As a class discussion, have students define a museum setting. Discuss how the garden is a living museum and the types of behaviors you use when visiting a museum. Advise students that during their visit they will need to stay on the Garden paths, not touch or

pick flowers, and be mindful of other visitors. Garden etiquette requires all food to be consumed at the Clay Family Picnic Pavilion.

This is an outdoor walk. Encourage students to dress appropriately for spending time outdoors.

Download a copy of *IMPRESSIONISM: AMERICAN GARDENS ON CANVAS* Garden Journal for each student. Fold these into booklets and bring them (along with pencils) on the day of your visit.

Your class will check in at the Everett Garden Gate and walk along the Mitsubishi Wild Wetland Trail to the Leon Levy Visitor Center and Perennial Garden Way (look for the big poetry boards!). Follow the directional signs posted throughout the grounds—the estimated walking time is 10 minutes.

See Other Side for Suggested Activities at the Garden...

During Your Visit

When you arrive at the Poetry Walk, distribute field journals and pencils and encourage students to use them throughout the day to organize information about what they see, learn, and wonder about in a way that makes sense to them. Then choose a poetry board to read together. Invite students to look at the whole poem first without reading it and simply scan it for clues about the intentional choices poets make:

How is the poem organized on the board?

Look for figurative language use.
(*rhyming words, alliteration, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia*)

What parts of the poem can you recognize? (*title, punctuation, paragraphs, capitalization, line breaks*)

What words or phrases seem to contain ideas about plants or nature?

Find the words that “sparkle” to you

Have students write down, then turn and share, their first impression of the poem.

After scanning and discussing the general sense students feel about what the poem will be about, invite students to read the poem out loud in segments or take turns reading to each other in small groups. As you read, delve deeper in to the ideas of the poet by comparing student’s initial impressions as they scanned the poem to the ideas they form while reading.

Without trying to define words with students, choose specific lines from the poem and discuss:

· *What does it make you imagine?*
· *To whom might the author be speaking?*

- *What words related to nature or gardens do you recognize?*
- *What feeling seems to be involved?*
- *What do you visualize from the words?*

Write a Nature-Inspired Poem

Encourage students to create a word box and fill it with words they read which contain botanical imagery. Students may choose to use these words to write their own free-form poem or another poem format for which the rules have been learned, such as acrostic or haiku.

Use our Mobile Guide For Additional Resources on Garden Grounds:

nybg.org/impressionism

Poetry for Every Season Audio Guide 718.362.9561