

Response Poem

This six-line poem reveals the traits of one character by focusing on one part of the body: hands, eyes, mouth, hair, etc.

Benefits of Response Poem

- Encourages Visualization
- Examines character traits

Types of Stories for Response Poem

- Any story that has a strong character and an interesting setting
- Look for stories that have a character doing something or being active.
- Focus on Jael's hands as she allows Sisera to come into her tent and then kills him. (# 63 /Judges 4-5)
- Focus on Samson's hair after he has been blinded and thrown into prison to work the millstone. (# 71 /Judges 16)
- Focus on Ruth's hands as she gathers grain. (# 75 & 76 / Book of Ruth)
- Focus on David's eyes when Samuel is anointing him. (# 86 / 1 Samuel 16)
- Focus on King Jeroboam's hand when he points at the Prophet from Judah. (# 120 / 1 Kings 13)
- Focus on the lips of Judas on the night he betrays Jesus. (# 215 – 217 / Mark 14)
- Focus on the cloak of Bartimaeus before / after his sight is restored. (# 212 / Mark 10:46-52)

Directions for Response Poem

1. After hearing the story, open your Bible and read the story paying close attention the actions of a character.
2. Respond to the six prompts being sure to keep the focus upon one part of the character's body.
3. Write the first draft quickly.
4. During revision, focus upon the verbs. Avoid weak verbs (is – are – was – were – am – be – been – being). Avoiding the forms of be and other weak verbs (got – went – seems – appears – became) will infuse your poetry with vivid images and power. Weak verbs can be used when someone is speaking so that the dialogue sounds natural. Notice the vivid verbs in the sample poem: lodges, beckoned, curl, swallows, till, plant, blocks, squints.

Sample of Response Poem focused upon Cain's Hands - based upon Story # 4 / Genesis 4 -

Prompts	Response
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write one sentence that describes your focus. 2. Write one sentence that shows the person doing something; stay focused on the one body part. 3. Write one sentence that tells something about the setting. 4. Ask the person one question that is based on the sentences you have already written. 5. Write another sentence showing the person doing something; maintain the focus. 6. Write the person's answer to your question, but give an answer that shows that the person does not understand the question or is unwilling to give an accurate answer. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Cain's Hands</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Dirt lodges under the nails of his powerful hands. (2) Fingers that beckoned to his brother, now curl around a stone. (3) Greedy, the black soil swallows innocent blood. (4) "When your hands till the soil, will you plant in his blood?" (5) Lifting one hand, he blocks the sun and squints as he answers, (6) "Planting season is long past; soon I'll harvest the results of my work."
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