

## Unit 2: Writing to Inform: What Inspires Writers to Write Poetry?

Common Core State Standards addressed: RL.4.3, W.4.2, W.4.5, W.4.10, L.4.1f, L.4.2b



### Guiding Questions and Big Ideas:

What makes a poem a poem?

- *Poetry has characteristics that are unique and distinct from prose.*

What inspires writers to write poetry?

- *Writers draw inspiration from many places, including the work of other writers and their own lives.*

### What will your student be doing at school?

In the first half of Unit 2, students finish reading *Love That Dog*. They think about what inspired the main character, Jack, to write and they collect evidence from his poetry supporting their thinking. In the second half of the unit, students continue thinking about what inspires people to write poetry, first focusing on poet William Carlos Williams as a class and then studying a poet of their choice in more depth. The poets they choose from are poets Jack learned about in *Love That Dog*: Robert Frost, Valerie Worth, and Walter Dean Myers. Students work in expert groups to learn about their selected poet and to read and analyze his or her poems. They then use the Painted Essay structure to write an informative, four-paragraph essay about what inspired their selected poet to write poetry.

Working to become an effective learner is the habit of character emphasized in this unit. These are the specific effective learning skills students will focus on:

- I take initiative. This means I see what needs to be done and take the lead on making responsible decisions.
- I take responsibility. This means I take ownership of my ideas, my work, my goals, and my actions.
- I persevere. This means I challenge myself. When something is difficult or demanding, I keep trying and ask for help if I need it.
- I collaborate. This means I work effectively with others.