



Lesson: Prize-Winning New Hampshire Poets

(To follow Amplify CKLA Grade 4, Unit 3, Lesson 1)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students apply the skills learned in Amplify Unit 3, Lesson 1: “Little Red Riding Hood” to a poem by a celebrated New Hampshire poet. After learning basic biographical information about three poets, students select a poem to read. Students complete the lesson by writing a response to the prompt and using textual evidence to support their reasoning.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students identify textual evidence and determine the implicit and explicit meanings of a specific poem.
- Students identify stanza, stanza break, line, and rhyme within a selected poem.

Formative Assessment Standards

- Complete Mason’s Challenge

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.6

Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., wildlife, conservation, and endangered when discussing animal preservation).

Materials

- Focus Text Facts: Prize-Winning New Hampshire Poets
- Focus Texts: [“Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”](#) by Robert Frost, [“Mount Kearsarge”](#) by Donald Hall, and “Late Snow” by Maxine Kumin

Time Needed

One to two 20-30 minute class sessions

Learning Activity

1. **Meet the poets.** Project or distribute Focus Text Facts: Prize-Winning New Hampshire Poets and review it as a class. *(5 minutes)*
2. **Select and read poems.** Make copies of selected poems. Give them time to read them independently or aloud. Students should mark the pages to identify stanza, stanza breaks, lines, and rhymes. *(15 minutes)*
3. **Complete Mason’s challenge.** Return to Focus Text Facts and read Mason’s Challenge together. Provide students with the Setting in Poetry worksheet and direct them to complete the graphic organizer. They can use the reverse side of the page, or a poetry journal, to write their own poem. *(25 minutes)*



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

This lesson provides an opportunity for students to practice identifying the basic structural features of a poem (stanzas, line breaks, and rhyme) and analyzing one of its literary elements (setting). The use of works by famous New Hampshire poets for this exercise reinforces Amplify CKLA skills while also introducing students to important figures in our state history.

Select and read poems

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" is included on the following page. "Mount Kearsarge" is linked on the previous page, including a recording, and can be found in *The Selected Poems of Donald Hall* (2015). "Late Snow" can be found in *Selected Poems, 1960-1990* by Maxine Kumin (1997). Depending on available time and student ability, you may wish to complete the analysis of one poem as a whole group; the Frost poem is a good choice for this approach.

This is a good place to pause if dividing the lesson across two class sessions.

Complete Mason's Challenge

Students will notice that all three poets lived on farms in New Hampshire. This rural setting, with its proximity to woods, mountains, bodies of water, animals of all kinds, and distance from city life, had a major influence on their poetry. Of course, not all of their poems were about rural life. But the three poems recommended all have references to farmhouses, horses, woods, mountains, and descriptions of weather. All of these elements are central to rural life in New Hampshire. The poems students will write about their own settings will vary.



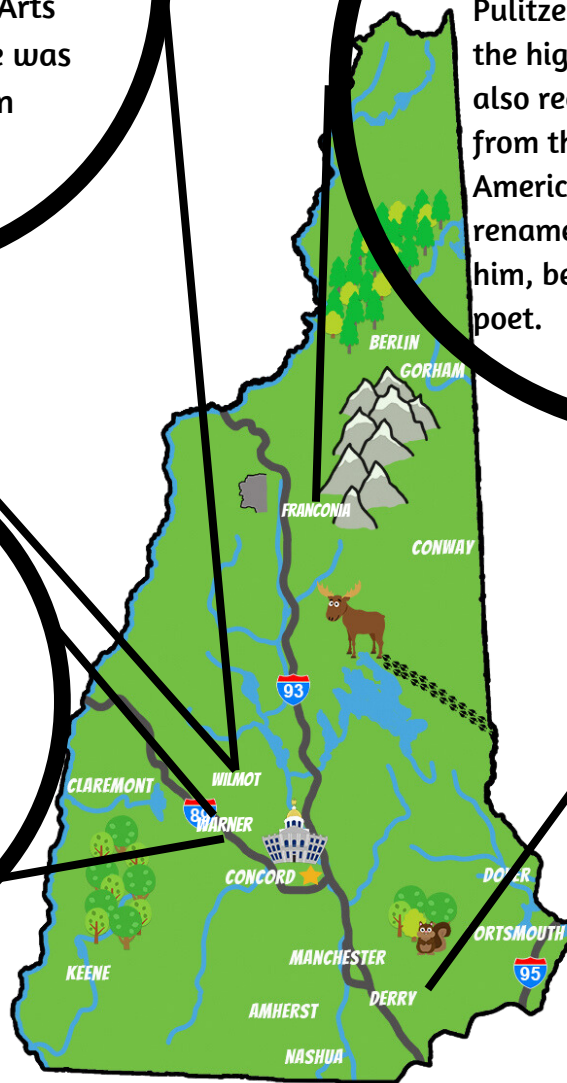
PRIZE-WINNING NEW HAMPSHIRE POETS

After finding their way to New Hampshire, these poets were inspired by the landscape.

Donald Hall (1928-2018) lived on a farm in Wilmot, New Hampshire. Donald Hall's writing earned many awards, including the National Medal for the Arts and the Frost Medal. He was the U.S. Poet Laureate in 2006.

Robert Frost (1874-1963) lived on farms in Derry, NH and Franconia, NH. He won the Pulitzer Prize four times, which is the highest honor for writers. He also received a special award from the Poetry Society of America. This award was later renamed the Frost Medal, after him, because he was such a great poet.

Maxine Kumin (1925-2014) moved to a farm in Warner, New Hampshire in the 1970s and lived there for the rest of her life. Her poetry won many prizes including the Pulitzer Prize and the Frost Medal. She was named U.S. Poet Laureate in 1981.



More than Poetry

Robert Frost, Maxine Kumin, and Donald Hall wrote more than poetry. They published essays and memoirs. They gave many talks to large audiences. Donald Hall and Maxine Kumin also won prizes for children's books they wrote.



MASON'S CHALLENGE

Settings in Poetry. What is similar about the places where these poets lived in New Hampshire? How could these places have influenced what they wrote? Can you find any clues about these places in the poem you chose? How is the place where you live the same or different? Write a short poem that helps someone imagine what your home looks like.



"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," by Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



Setting in Poetry

Title of poem and
name of poet

What words or
phrases help you
see the setting of
the poem?

What is similar or
different about
where you live?

What words or
phrases describe
the place where
you live?
