

## Class 12

### Poetry First Lines Activity

*Overview:* This is a great activity to use during a poetry unit or during any other time of the year when you have an extra 10-20 minutes.

#### What to Do:

Select first lines from random poems. (It's helpful if the students aren't familiar with the poems that you select.) *Example:* "I caught a tremendous fish" by Elizabeth Bishop or "I met a traveller from an antique land" by Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Put the line on an overhead and have the students copy down the line and then add their own lines.

*Variation:* Have students swap papers after they write one line to create "class poems".

Have students share their poems with the class.

Share the original poem with the students. Many times they will think their poems are better, which helps them with their image of themselves as poets!

**Note:** This is a great way for reluctant students to write poetry because the first line helps to get the creative juices flowing.

