



## Outdoor Poems

**Age:** Grades 4-6

**Lesson Plan Two:** The Child in Nature

**Objective:** To use all of the senses while making observations in nature.

**Background:** In elementary school we were lucky enough to attend a school that was beside a forest. My teacher often took us into the forest to do different activities. On one occasion she invited us to take pencils and paper into the woods, find a quiet space to make observations about the nature surrounding us and then take our findings back into the classroom to construct poems based on our observations. This event was the first time I experienced outdoor environmental education. It made a lasting impact on me, not just because I loved being outside to think but because I think that being outside made me think better – I was happy and more creative outdoors. I carry that experience with me and still retreat to the outdoors to problem solve, to relax and or just to “think better”.

**Activity:** The following lesson is a variation of what I experienced as a 10 year old. You can change it up to make it your own. I discovered the poem below on a blog at [blog.stenhouse.com](http://blog.stenhouse.com)

Use an outdoor space in your schoolyard, neighbourhood, backyard or green space to complete a five line poem with the following formula:

First line: See what I found?

Second line: Name of object

Third line: adjectives and/or descriptive phrase

Fourth line: tell where you found it

Fifth line: make a comment or question about it

For example:

See what I found?  
A butterfly  
Flitting and glowing in the sunlight.  
It's resting on a flower.  
I wonder how long it will stay?



Once students have had a couple of opportunities to observe a green space and record what they have experienced with their senses, ask the group the following questions. (Adapted from the David Suzuki Foundation's publication "Connecting with Nature")

**Group Discussion:**

1. What kinds of nature did you see, feel, smell or touch?
2. What was missing? How would you make your schoolyard more natural?
3. Why is nature important?
4. How does it make you feel when you are experiencing nature?

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