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Implementing Poetry As An Extracurricular Activity In Teaching English As A Foreign Language

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Abstract:

Poetry is a valuable authentic material that helps learners develop a better understanding of the target culture as well as enrich their vocabulary and language skills with fun. In order to expose students to authentic materials that fit into their needs and levels and thus engage them more in the target language, short poems may be a remarkable alternative. Learners may also find the opportunity to improve their creativity and interpretation skills through the activities that mainly focus on the language, images and themes in the poems by Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost and Langston Hughes.

This study is a 3-week-workshop which aims to help learners gain new insights into language learning through extracurricular 40-minute poetry workshops on weekly basis. The participants of the study are pre-intermediate level of English language learners at Anadolu University. The data are collected through focus group interviews with a sample of fifteen participants in the study.

Key Words: Poetry, Foreign Language Learning, EFL Classes, Authenticity, Extracurricular Activities