



**Lesson:**

Poet-Tree (or shrub or forb)

**Ages:**

K-2<sup>nd</sup>

**Time:**

30-40 minutes

**Overview:**

Students write a class poem to describe a noxious weed.

**Goals:**

Students form a personal relationship with, and a better understanding of, weeds.

**Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to describe a particular weed.
2. Students will understand the basic ecology of the weed.
3. Students will create a group poem.

**Materials:**

Pictures of two or three noxious weeds, or plant specimens

Poster board

Markers

**Outline:**

1. Discuss two or three weeds with the students.
2. Have the class brainstorm words for a group poem.
3. Create a Poet-Tree for the classroom.

**Details:**

Tell students that poetry can be an effective way to convey feelings or information. Today their class will be writing poems about two or three local weeds. Show the pictures of the weeds and give the class a description of the basic ecology of the weed. Also discuss the problems the weed causes.

On a large sheet of paper, or on the board, have the class brainstorm words and phrases relating to weeds. Choose a weed and write its name vertically on the poster board. Have the class suggest words that start with the letters from the weed and write the suggested words horizontally. The class should suggest words or phrases, which describe the weed or its ecology.

For example:

**T**ough  
**O**range-throated  
**A**ngular seeds  
**D**ry areas  
**F**lowers yellow  
**L**ong root  
**A**ny soil will do  
**eX**tremely hard to get rid of

This type of poem is called an acrostic.

**Modifications:**

After the poems are written, students may want to draw pictures on the poster board to illustrate their poems.

Older students can write their own poems and share them with the class.

**Wrap-up/Evaluation:**

Cut a tree trunk and branches out of butcher paper and attach it to the wall. Write the name of the weed on the trunk. Have the students write on leaf-shaped pieces of paper facts as well as feelings relating to the weed. Hang the leaves from the tree branches to create a "Poet-Tree". Students may prefer to cut out a pattern in the shape of the plant they are describing.