



River of Words:

National Environmental Poetry & Poster Contest for Students - Teacher's Guide



IN A NUTSHELL

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SUBJECTS

Language Arts
Science
Social Studies

The publication of this guide was prompted by the 1996 National Environmental Poetry Contest. The guide contains reprints of articles of the process of writing poetry, how to lead poetry writing sessions with students, and how to foster creativity. One section explores the concept of watershed, presents a map showing some of the principal watersheds in the country, describes factors affecting watersheds, and gives a basic introduction to issues related to water and water usage. Other chapters include reprints of articles on teaching in the out-of-doors and incorporating multidisciplinary approaches in teaching about the environment. The booklet is accented with samples of writings by teachers, students, and professional poets such as U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Haas. A poster accompanies the booklet and provides more specific information about the contest itself. A curriculum supplement includes readings, discussion questions, practice in the use of topographical maps, and a simple model of a watershed. Teacher workshops are available.

Grade Level
K-12

Length
54 pages

Date Published
1996

THE BOTTOM
L I N E

"Encourages personal reflection and introspection.
Makes me want to use this with the students in
my classroom."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Represents diverse cultures and ages. Opens topic to inquiry and exploration.	Sources of specific facts on watersheds not cited.
	Depth	Develops awareness of watershed. Identifies key concepts.	No suggestions for adjusting for different developmental levels.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Strong on creative thinking and applying creativity to study of watersheds.	
	Action Orientation	N o t A p p l i c a b l e.	
	Instructional Soundness	Material is very learner-centered and interdisciplinary.	Goals and objectives for activities are not clearly stated.
	Usability	Provides large and helpful bibliography. Guide is readable and visually appealing. Information and pedagogical suggestions are adaptable and long-lived.	Content is poorly organized.

"Many teachers may lack the background to feel safe. This should not deter them; use this to bring the interdisciplinary nature of the project into play."

"Lots of detail for its size and stated purpose."