



Dear families,

Children are asked and encouraged to use illustrations as clues to the meaning of a story. Good readers also create pictures in their own minds as they read. This is visualization. Visualization enhances understanding because it activates the senses and connects the author's purpose with our own experiences and knowledge. It helps us "make a movie" that is playing in our minds as we read.

Do you have a poet in the family? What about an artist? See below for an activity that would lend itself to "Visualization" and satisfy both the poet and artist within you.

Poetry Pics

Choose a poem (In my home, we love the old tried and true poems by Shel Silverstein). Read the poem aloud. Then, ask your child to close their eyes as you read it again. Encourage them to paint a picture in their mind of the poem as you are reading it. You may read it several times in order for your child to **visualize** the poem.

Ask questions like -

"Do you think the poem setting was inside or outside? Why do you think that? What words did the author use?"

"What does the little boy in the poem look like? Does he look like anyone you know?"

"How does the mother feel in that poem? What clues make you think that? What would her face look like? Have you ever felt that way? When?"

Next, illustrate the poem. Use markers, crayons, paint - whatever you have. As your child is drawing their picture, ask them if they need you to reread a certain part of the poem to help them visualize it better.

After doing this activity a few times, hold a family "Poetry Slam/Gallery Opening Night". What a cool way to show how reading and art can compliment each other!