



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2014 Volume II: Playing with Poems: Rules, Tools, and Games

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## **Growing Up Yo in New Haven: Teaching Spanish through Bilingual Slam Poetry**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 14.02.02, published September 2014  
by Jean Capacetti

In this unit, students will explore popular Slam Poetry in English and Spanish from artists in New Haven as well as from around the country. Then they will look specifically at bilingual poetry which features English and Spanish within the same poem. Finally they will get an opportunity to write their own bilingual slam poetry and perform it in front on their peers. In the narrative portion of my unit I will discuss the history of Spoken Word Poetry and why teaching Spanish through poetry will be beneficial for the students as well as looking at select poems in English, Spanish, and Bilingual, and discussing why these in particular are good examples to use with students in Spanish class.

(Developed for Spanish I and II, grades 9-12, and Spanish III, grades 10-12; recommended for Spanish, all grades)

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