



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
2024 Volume III: Poetry as Sound and Object

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## Poetry Through Hózhó: The Beauty Way of Life

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by Elizabeth Isaac

The intent of this unit is to help third- to eighth-grade Native American students enjoy reading and writing poetry that is connected to their own lives. The unit teaches students the importance of poetry through research-based strategies, and to comprehend the content of the poem and how it is connected to expression. Three objectives will be the focus of the unit in a span of 15 days. A *Hózhó* model, aligned with the beauty way of life, will be the focus to ensure students learn the important components of being Native American and are proud of who they are, as well as building motivation to accept and strive through the journey way of life. Three different poems written by Native American poets will be utilized to make the connection and are relevant to the culture of the learner. Students will connect themselves with the world around them, but most importantly, connect and accept themselves with who they are and their purpose in life. In addition, the unit aims to have students to become writers themselves and to express their feelings, whether positive or negative, in the most fun and exciting way.

(Developed for ELA and Writing, grade 3; recommended for ELA and Writing, grades K-12)

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