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Ruthie Rose's BIG IDEA

words by John Schu illustrations by Holly Hatam

This celebration of poetry and possibilities follows a child who sparks to life a special space in her school for exploring ideas of all kinds.

Use *Ruthie Rose's Big Idea: A Poetry Story* in your classroom to teach about different forms of poetry and inspire big ideas.

Candlewick Press • TEACHER TIPS

Ruthie Rose's BIG IDEA

- There are many names in *Ruthie Rose's Big Idea*. With your class, make a list of all of them. Have students write acrostic poems of their own names and then have them make one for a name on the list. Instruct them to include significant details they determine from the illustrations or text in their acrostic, but also encourage them to invent more elements for the character they choose.

- Haiku and tanka are two forms of poetry listed on the sign for the Poetry Place. Share the differences and similarities between these two forms of poetry. Have your students write two poems about the same subject of their choice using each style. Discuss which they think is easier and why.

- In small groups, have students select a poem they'd like to hear. Give them time to memorize or practice reading in unison, then have each group recite or read their poem aloud.

- What big, bright, beautiful idea do your students have for your school? Would it be a Poetry Place or something else? What would they need to create it? Who would they need to involve? Brainstorm ideas and then engage everyone in trying to make the favorite idea happen!

- Close attention to the illustrations reveals the words of poems and the names of poets. Using your library or online resources, find the complete poems to read aloud. Then have students research further to learn more about the poets and to find some of their other works.



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