



# CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

## PET PARADE

Our favorite animals set to music



### CLASS ACTIVITY:

#### The Art of Dog

Grade Level(s): 2-5

Subject Areas: Music, Reading Comprehension, ELA



### OBJECTIVE

April is National Poetry Month, and several composers in the Cliburn in the Classroom Pet Parade program were inspired by poetry. Students will read one of two poems (depending on grade level) and will write their own poems in the same style in response to prompts related to the subjects. Students will then understand the relationship between written/spoken words and music.

### SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The book "Dogku" by Andrew Clements may be used for grades 2-3, which can be purchased from Amazon. Older grades can read "The Art of Falling" by composer Lera Auerbach; it can be found here: [https://blog.bestamericanpoetry.com/the\\_best\\_american\\_poetry/2021/12/falling.html](https://blog.bestamericanpoetry.com/the_best_american_poetry/2021/12/falling.html)

### MUSIC TO EXPLORE

MONKEES                      Gonna Buy Me a Dog  
HSU-CHARLE\$-BURK       [Free](#)

### ACTIVITY

1. For younger grades: read aloud the book "Dogku" by Andrew Clements. Discuss how a haiku is written (three lines with 17 syllables total; 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables; all unrhymed, all one related topic). Explore how Andrew Clements showed characters, action, conflict, and resolution using only a series of haikus. Have students write their own haiku-based story about their pet or a pet that they'd like to have.
2. For older grades: allow time for students to read "The Art of Falling" by Lera Auerbach independently. Relate the style of free verse poetry to hip hop and improvised lyrics. Have students write their own free verse poem about a time they tried something they were not immediately good at and had to practice, OR about a time when they did not understand why they were learning something, but it ended up being a great life lesson.
3. For all grades: Listen to the suggested pieces above; click on the title of the second piece to view it on YouTube. Use body percussion to understand rhythm and cadence in both poetry and music. Allow volunteers to read their poems out loud and tap along with the natural beat of the spoken word. Then let students create a back beat for their own poems by beatboxing, using classroom instruments, or clapping.