

Activity Idea

Poetry: Nikki Giovanni *Recommended for Adults*

One of the best-known African American poets to reach prominence during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Nikki Giovanni has continued to create poems that encompass a life fully experienced. Her unique and insightful verses testify to her own evolving awareness and experiences as a woman of color: from child to young woman, from naive college freshman to seasoned civil rights activist, and from daughter to mother. Frequently anthologized, Giovanni's poetry expresses strong racial pride and respect for family. Her informal style makes her work accessible to both adults and children. In addition to collections such as *Re: Creation*, *Spin a Soft Black Song*, and *Those Who Ride the Night Winds*, Giovanni has published several works of nonfiction, including *Racism 101* and the anthology *Grand Mothers: Poems, Reminiscences, and Short Stories about the Keepers of Our Traditions*. A frequent lecturer and reader, Giovanni has also taught at Rutgers University, Ohio State University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Giovanni released her fifteenth book of poetry, *Chasing Utopia: A Hybrid*, in 2013. (Gale in Context, Biography)

Books:

A Good Cry on Hoopla tinyurl.com/uc7suul

Love Poems on Hoopla tinyurl.com/sk8hoch

Blues: For All the Changes on Hoopla tinyurl.com/vtdzeab

Vacation Time: Poems for Children on Hoopla tinyurl.com/rruaftk

Films:

The Power of Poetics on Kanopy tinyurl.com/yx8b3usd

Forms of Literature: Poetry on Kanopy tinyurl.com/tetkrw7

Online Classes:

Poetry 101 on Universal Class tinyurl.com/yxyx7t2m

Creative Writing on Universal Class tinyurl.com/wdwhg79

Research:

Nikki Giovanni on Gale tinyurl.com/uohycgg



Spark an Idea:

Write a poem using one of the follow prompts:

Describe your favorite childhood memory

Describe your favorite color

Choose one of your five senses. Focus on it, now write about it

Write a poem about an animal, without name the animal

Pick an item in your house, describe how it is used

Your morning cup of coffee or tea

When did you realized you were an adult?

Your favorite vacation spot

Put on your favorite song, start writing

How has your daily routine changed?

Describe your neighborhood

Write a poem about your favorite poem

Talk about your hobby, why do you love it?

Get creative, write what you feel