

# Poets with Class

is the educational initiative  
—from Chicago Slam Works—  
that combines **writing** quality  
poetry with **performance**  
to enhance literacy, build  
student **confidence** and  
help teachers exceed  
**achievement** goals.



**This is poetry  
in action.**

1404 W. Thorndale Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60660

Poets  
with  
**Class**



**CHICAGO  
SLAM  
WORKS**  
Saving Literary  
Audiences from Monotony



## Poets with Class places poets in classrooms to assist teachers in maintaining Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts — through poetry and performance.



### A Richer Education, A Flexible Program

*Poets with Class* emphasizes both the **quality** of the written word and the creative process of performance. Through original lesson plans, **experienced poets** guide students by reading and discussing significant, evocative poetic works.

Students communicate their ideas and write their own poetry using literary and poetic techniques. They also learn to use their body, mind and voice to perform their poems.

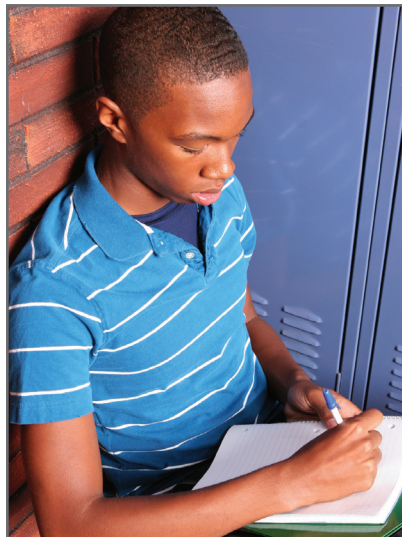
*Poets with Class* can be scheduled as 20-, 10- or 4-week programs, to enhance curriculum or provide after-school programming. Chicago Slam Works also offers poets for:

- one-time events and performances
- adult workshops
- educator/teacher workshops.

Most important, *Poets with Class* **combines well-crafted writing with performance**, which builds confidence and enhances appreciation of the Fine Arts.

#### **Guidelines Focused on Achievement**

The format is simple. Poets use poems from different societies, cultures and periods to initiate discussion between students. Students



complete writing exercises based on learning standards, then recite what they wrote. Instruction and guidance are given in both writing and performance. To **assess achievement**, the first and last classes present the same assignment.

Poets work closely with teachers to help them reach their goals. They sign an agreement with educators to ensure their lesson plans meet the teacher's direction for the class. Teachers are present at all times. Poets submit evaluation forms to the teachers and keep a journal of class content. They provide the teachers students' graded assessment assignments.

#### **Building Understanding in Diverse Communities**

Chicago Slam Works believes in

building community through poetry. Through both individual and interactive exercises, students recognize similarities and differences while building their communication and social skills. This approach can increase understanding and provide the tools to more effectively interact with others.


#### **Why Chicago Slam Works?**

Chicago Slam Works is founded by people who have roots in poetry, performance and academics. They teach, write, perform and have been board members of other leading

poetry organizations. For students, this rich experience brings **both writing and performance** skills to the classroom. *Poets with Class* benefits students by offering a fresh appreciation for writing that enhances literacy, while mastering performance instills new confidence.

Let *Poets with Class* help you **fulfill your English Language and Fine Arts programming requirements**. Chicago Slam Works is your community resource.

**Chicago Slam Works is a non-profit organization that brings together audiences, poets and arts organizations to promote the quality of oral tradition through well-crafted poetry.**



**For more information, call 708-848-8067 or visit [www.chicagoslamworks.com](http://www.chicagoslamworks.com).**