

Suggested poems and monologues for K-8

The following selections can be performed for your video! Please note: these are just suggestions. You may perform a poem or monologue of your choosing.

#1

Life is Fine (excerpt)

By Langston Hughes

I went down to the river,
I set down on the bank.
I tried to think but couldn't,
So I jumped in and sank.
I came up once and hollered!
I came up twice and cried!
If that water hadn't a-been so cold
I might've sunk and died.
 But it was Cold in that water! It was cold!

#2

Tommy

by Gwendolyn Brooks

I put my seed into the ground
And said, 'I'll watch it grow.'
I watered it and cared for it
As well as I could know.

One day I walked in my back yard,

And oh. what did I see!
My seed had popped itself right out
Without consulting me.

#3

Dreams

By Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.

#4

SEVEN

from *This Is Modern Art* by Kevin Coval

Nah...I'm inspired, yo! On my way to school, almost everyday, I walk by the Art Institute. And I look at that Modern Wing. Every day I see that bridge that hangs over Monroe Avenue like a staircase to heaven for the rich. Every day I see it. Every day I see tourists go in and northside schools groups and hip young art students in their five hundred-thousand-dollar eye glasses and I'm like: "Who is this art for?" and even more "Who is this art by?" ...You feel me?

#5

JOEL

from *I Don't Want to be a Jedi*

by Tara Meddaugh

I tried Dad, I really tried. I watched all those movies with you and ate the donut holes you decorated like BB8. But these Jedi pajamas? I can't do it anymore! I can't keep pretending. You're old enough to know the truth, Dad. So...the truth? I hate how Luke's father is a bad guy and talks like he's old and sick. I don't like the love stories or how they keep fighting each other, and you say the aliens are funny and I'll like them, but I just think they're weird. (pause) Aw, Dad...you're not gonna cry, are you?