

Activity Sheet for *Be a Poetry Partner!*

- Make copies of the master, *Be a Poetry Partner!* for your students and distribute them to begin this activity. Briefly discuss other opportunities students have had to partner together in class such as peer reviews of stories they have written. Point out that this activity offers the option of writing poems with partners.
- Read the directions at the top of the poem page together noting that the focus of the poem is in the title, *Beach*. Ask who has had experiences at a beach. For the others ask if they have seen photographs or read stories/articles about beach environments. As a class, read down the poem page noting the subject word that begins each stanza. Ask if students have seen a seagull, pelican, sandpiper, hermit crab, dolphin at the beach? (Also note the need to continue the three-line stanza structure with first and third lines rhyming.)
- Invite a student to read aloud the portions of the *Beach* poem that are already printed. Note that in each stanza the subject word is followed by an action word that describes the nature of the subject (seagull *glides*, sandpipers *hop*, dolphin *swims*). Discuss other action, description and feelings that are expressed in the poem.
- Point out that in this activity students are invited to partner and finish the poem by describing what they have actually seen (or imagine) pelicans and hermit crabs do at the beach.
- Begin a word bank to ready students for writing to complete the *Beach* poem by asking the class about other favorite beach subjects. Write their ideas on the board with words that describe, show action, express feeling, sound and other senses connected with each subject.
- Announce writing time and ask students to work in pairs. Remind students that they may write more stanzas of their *Beach* poem on additional sheets of notebook paper.
- As time permits, invite volunteers to read their partnered poems aloud. If the class enjoys success with this activity, repeat it with other poetry writing.

Be a Poetry Partner!

The poem below has been partly written by *The Lovable Poet*. It needs you to complete it by becoming The Lovable Poet's "poetry partner." The focus of two stanzas that need work are: pelicans and hermit crabs. The title begins with "Beach." Add one or more words to the title to complete the word picture you want to paint. Be creative! When you finish the poem, add your name at the page bottom as the *The Lovable Poet's Poetry Partner*. Optional: Write additional beach poem stanzas on a new sheet of paper.

Beach _____

A seagull glides like a high-flying kite,
Catching rides with the wind,
What a beautiful sight!

Pelicans _____

Sandpipers hop and stop to eat;
They peck at coquina shells,
Mindless of the summer heat.

Hermit crabs _____

A lone dolphin swims out at sea,
Playing water games in the sun;
I wish that he or she could play with me.

*Poetry Partners, _____ and
♥ The Lovable Poet*