

## Bilingual Poetry Videos Discussion

As you watch the video examples of bilingual poetry, think about these questions. After we've finished watching the videos, turn and talk to a partner about your answers to the questions.

- How did these poems make you feel—how did it feel to experience these poems in two different languages?
- How are the two languages being spoken work together to tell the poem's story?

**Topic Brainstorming**

Use the suggested topics below to brainstorm ideas for your poem. On the left side of the chart, there are a few categories; choose at least 3 that inspire you and fill in your specific details in the column on the right. There is also space for you to add your own categories at the bottom. Continue in your writing journal, if you need more room.

Categories	Details
A family member, friend, or mentor who is dear to you	
An event or experience you'll never forget	
An animal you love or are fascinated by	
An emotion you've been feeling deeply	
A place you've always wanted to visit	
The future you've been dreaming of	

## Poem Details

Choose one of the topics from page 2 of the handout that inspires you the most. Answer the questions below to help you develop your poem.

1. What is your topic?
2. Why does this topic inspire you?
3. How does this topic make you feel and why?
4. Describe your topic using sensory language: How does it look, sound, feel, taste, etc.?
5. Describe the setting you most often associate with this topic. For example, if you're writing about a bird, describe the color of the sky, the sound of the wind, the temperature, etc.

# Mentor Text #1: “Bilingual”

by Jalynn Mejia Lara, Age 16, 826 Boston

It's a privilege knowing two languages  
Speaking two languages is a blessing  
Te abre muchas puertas en la vida  
Sometimes I don't know  
Some words in English when said in  
Spanish

I'm bilingual  
Soy dominicana  
My family only knows Spanish so  
It helps me talk to them

Hispanic or American?  
I express myself in Spanish  
More than English  
Por ejemplo cuando hablo Espanol

If somebody needed help  
And they didn't speak English  
I was there to help them in Spanish  
This makes me feel happy about my  
background

## Mentor Text #2: “Sunny Smiles”

by Sergio M., 826 Valencia

Days are sunny  
Smiles are showing  
The sun is out, but the words written  
are done in the dark  
The smiles are out, but the faces  
showing them all fall apart  
Days are sunny  
Smiles are showing  
Gray clouds make the sun disappear  
Smiles turn upside down from the inside  
out

Days are sunny  
Smiles are showing  
The sun is glowing  
Smiles are pouring

Days are sunny  
Smiles are showing  
The sun is gone, smiles are snoring  
The earth is turning, smiles are hurting  
A painful truth slowly showing...

Days turn dark  
Smiles are gone  
The fact that you're alone  
With a heart that's never curing  
In an endless whirl that keeps on  
twirling  
Along with a life that just keeps on  
going  
Tripping with heart and soul just to get  
away  
Finding a smile, hoping it stays

We all face demons  
And we all face angels  
Each lying on a shoulder  
Hoping for a heart, yet still in danger  
A raging mess that can't be stable  
Behind a broken heart that strikes as  
painful  
Lies a beautiful face that strikes as  
faithful  
A gorgeous rose that comes to blossom  
Is the reflection in the mirror far  
across from boredom

A smile in that rain? Yes I know I saw  
some  
Everyone smiles, yet darkness is the  
outcome

Enamorado de tu sonrisa pero los  
demonios golpean tus ojos  
I can't make a smile out of my face  
below those  
No matter where the soul goes  
I'm afraid  
But my happiness is something I can't  
betray

In love with love, but nowadays it's all  
foul play  
That doesn't matter, tomorrow is a  
new day  
Everything is okay  
Let the days be gray  
Let the smiles pour  
Everything is okay  
I'll fix up to see the sun another day  
Once more

# Exploring a Second Language

Underline the parts of your original poem that you would like to translate and add them to the chart below. Then, using either your own knowledge or a translation site, translate that text. Finally, reflect on what made you choose that part of your poem.

<b>Your Original Text</b>	<b>The Translation</b>	<b>Why Did You Choose This Word?</b>

# Revision BINGO for Poetry

Choose three of the BINGO boxes to help you revise your poem. You can choose any three as long as they line up horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. To give your poem an extra boost, try to complete the entire board!

<p><b>First Impressions</b></p> <p>Reread the first line or stanza of your poem. Add to it or punch it up!</p>	<p><b>Action Hero</b></p> <p>Look at the words you use to describe the actions in your poem. Make them stronger!</p>	<p><b>In Your Feelings</b></p> <p>Find the lines where you describe a feeling. Use powerful adjectives!</p>
<p><b>Where Are You?</b></p> <p>Stretch your vocabulary to paint with more detail by adding powerful descriptions.</p>	<p><b>As Sweet as Similes</b></p> <p>Find the lines in your poem where you describe a person, place, thing, feeling, or idea. Add a simile.</p>	<p><b>A Metaphor is a Light</b></p> <p>Find the lines in your poem where you describe a person, place, thing, feeling, or idea. Add a metaphor.</p>
<p><b>Lines and Breaks</b></p> <p>Change the length of your lines to add emphasis or change the reader's speed.</p>	<p><b>Stanzas</b></p> <p>Group sections with similar images, ideas, or feelings together to divide your poem into stanzas.</p>	<p><b>Final Thoughts</b></p> <p>Change the last line of your poem to create a lasting impact on the reader.</p>

