

<b>Title:</b> Plant Poetry Every Day: Week 2 <i>“Under the Ground”</i> by Rhoda Bacmeister <i>“Seeds”</i> by Walter de la Mar	<b>Grade:</b> 4th Grade
<b>Content:</b> Science Themed Poetry	<b>Duration:</b> 15-20 minutes daily for one week

**Standard:**

- **RL.4.5:** Explain major differences between poems.
- **SL 3.4:** Speak clearly at an understandable pace.
- **RL.3.13:** Read and comprehend poetry appropriate for third grade.

**Objective:** Students will practice reading fluency by reading poems aloud; compare and contrast 2 poems; perform poetry for an audience.

**Materials:**

- Poems: *“Under the Ground”* by Rhoda Bacmeister  
*“Seeds”* by Walter de la Mar
- Graphic organizer (*below*)
- Pencil (markers, crayons, colored pencils—optional)

**Introduction Description:**

Students will explore two poems every day for a week to practice fluency and respond in a different way each day.

**Steps:**

- Use the graphic organizer below.
- Read poems aloud several times each day.
- Complete the task for each day of the week:
  - Day 1- How are these poems alike?
  - Day 2- How are these poems different?
  - Day 3- Find challenging words from each poem.
  - Day 4- Perform the poem for an audience.
  - Day 5- Write and illustrate your own poem.

**Adaptations (optional):**

- Listen to someone else read the poem to you.
- Turn the poem into a song.
- Write the poem down on another sheet of paper- big or small.
- Record a video of you performing the poem.
- Draw illustrations for one or both of the poems.

**Finished Product:** Students will compare and contrast two poems; analyze language in poems; perform poems for an audience; write and illustrate their own poems.

# UNDER THE GROUND

What is under the grass,  
Way down in the ground,  
Where everything is cool and wet  
With darkness all around?

Little pink worms live there;  
Ants and brown bugs creep  
Softly round the stones and rocks  
Where roots are pushing deep.

Do they hear us walking  
On the grass above their heads;  
Hear us running over  
While they snuggle in their beds?

- Rhoda W. Bacmeister

# SEEDS

The seeds I sowed –  
For week unseen –  
Have pushed up pygmy  
Shoots of green;  
So frail you'd think  
The tiniest stone  
Would never let  
A glimpse be shown.

But no; a pebble  
Near them lies,  
At least a cherry-stone  
In size,  
Which that mere sprout  
Has heaved away,  
To bask in sunshine,  
See the Day.

– Walter de la Mare

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### Every Day: Read each poem aloud.

- Read together with someone else.
- Take turns reading a line.
- Read on your own.
- Read in a funny voice.
- Read in a whisper voice.
- What's another way you could read it?

### Day 1: How are these poems alike?

### Day 2: How are these poems different?

### Day 3: Write down 4 challenging words from each poem.

### Day 4: Perform the poem for someone else.

- ◇ Make eye contact with audience.
- ◇ Speak clearly.
- ◇ Use expression.
- ◇ Use appropriate volume.

### Day 5: Write your own poem about plants.