

Here are some suggestions for using *Daisy's Big Night* at home or at school.

### ***Daisy's Big Night***

- Read *Daisy's Big Night* and talk about poetry. Do you have a favorite poem to share? Perhaps one you remember from your childhood? Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" is a wonderful one to share with children and one that they can understand. Talk about times you have chosen to take a different path and why. Let each child tell you about less obvious paths taken.
- Check out poetry books from the library and help a child memorize a poem. Memorizing poetry is a great way for children to really understand rhythm and meter.
- Give poetry as a gift. I received a book of poetry when I was young that I still have. It was a special gift that instilled in me a love of language and words.
- Try writing a haiku together. Invite children to think about something in nature that they really like. Examples include a falling leaf, a particularly smooth rock, the ocean, and the moon.
- Teach children the 5-7-5 syllable format for haiku. It helps younger children to think about counting beats rather than syllables, as Daisy learns to do in the book. Show them by tapping out the beats to the line of a familiar song.
- Help them think about what words to use just like Daisy does. Are the words descriptive, full of action, or meant to invoke a certain tone or image?
- Have children substitute different words with similar meanings into the poem to see if it affects how the poem sounds, its rhythm, its feel.
- Share the haikus with your family and friends. Poetry is meant to be shared.
- Resources: Check out <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/children/poet-laureate-book-picks> for suggestions of poetry for children.