

**Muskingum University**

**EDUC - 580- N2084**

**Poems Are Teachers – Part II**

**Date and Time:** April 12, 2025 - 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM – with Amy Ludwig Vanderwater

**Location:** Clark Hall, Gahanna-Jefferson Schools

**Credit:** 1 graduate hour

**Partnership:** The Literacy Connection

**Participants:** Central Ohio Educators

**Instructor:** Barbara Hansen, Ph.D., Interim Director of Graduate Teacher Education, Muskingum

University, New Concord, OH 43762 - phone 740-826-8032

**Course Description:**

With author, Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, candidates will read, reflect, and discuss *Poems Are Teachers*. She declares that “*Poems wake us up, keep us company, and remind us that our world is small.*” Participants will benefit from her extensive writing and the richness of her instructional ideas. Her practical book is designed for every classroom teacher. Each lesson exploration includes three poems, one by a contemporary adult poet and two by students in grades 2 through 8, which serve as models to illustrate how poetry teaches writers to:

- Find ideas
- Choose perspective and point of view
- Structure exists
- Play with language.
- Craft beginnings and endings.
- Choose titles

### **Course Objectives**

- To share a variety of best practices, theories, strategies, models, and resources to classroom educators specific to the use of poetry and how it intersects with and strengthens student writing.
- Promote the essential understanding of the value of using poetry in classroom instruction.
- Restore teacher agency.
- To provide professional development opportunities for Central Ohio Educators
- Through writing, to self-reflect upon poetry and its application as a genre for instruction.

### **Course Requirements/ Assignments**

- Attend and participate in the September 28, workshop. (50 points)
- Compose a three/four page reflection paper detailing how you will integrate new techniques, strategies, theories and resources from the workshop into your professional dispositions and classroom teaching and practice. Paper will be thorough, detailed and provide evidence of theory to implementation. 50 points.
- Please forward the above assignments to Barbara Hansen, [bhansen@muskingum.edu](mailto:bhansen@muskingum.edu)
- All assignments must be received by June 1, 2025. Please note any assignment submitted after the deadline will receive an automatic grade reduction.

### **Grading Scale**

A 94-100 points, A- 90-93 points, B+ 87-89 points, B 83-86 points, B- 80-82 point

Please note: To obtain an official transcript with course grade documented:

<https://www.muskingum.edu/registrar>

Please note all candidates registered for the course will receive a receipt via the mail. We will also automatically forward you a grade card via the mail.

