Poems for Two Voices
What is poetry for two or more voices?

- poetry written for more than one person has been around for a LONG time.
- little documentation about when Poems for Two Voices actually came into being
- most Christian churches have had a poetic liturgical reading somewhere in their services for over 400 years
- choral readings, they were called, were a back and forth between the worship leader and another parishioner or the entire congregation
- most poems specifically for two voices began to be published with some frequency in late 1980’s and early 1990’s.
Poetry written for two or more voices is a poem that is written for two or more people to perform. The poetry usually has two columns—one for each person who is reading the poem. The persons reading the poem will each take their column. Sometimes the poet wants the two readers to say something at the same time, then the poet will write the words on the same line in each column. It’s a lot like writing a dialogue for two people.
The Moth's Serenade

I am
your seeking
circling
sighing
lovesick
knight
You are
my soul's
desire
my prize
Porch light!
My shining star!
“Keep back,” they say
I can't!
“Don't touch,” they say
Porch light!
Let's clasp
Let's kiss
Let's marry for a trice!

Porch light!
hear my plight!
I drink your light
like nectar
by day
Gaze in your eyes
all night
Porch light!

Porch light!
light,
hear my plight!

Bright paradise!
I am
seeking,
circling
sighing
You are
my soul's
desire
my prize
my eyes?
delight
My compass needle's North!
“Keep back,” they say
“I can't!”
“Don't touch,” they say
Let's kiss
Let's clasp
Let's marry for a trice!
Porch light!
Let’s meet
Let’s merge
Let’s live for love!
For light!

Porch light!
Let’s merge
Let’s meet
For light!

Joyful Noise
Poems for Two Voices
Paul Fleischman
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FROG SERENADE</th>
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<td>Ga-lunk</td>
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<td>I hear your</td>
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<td>deep-voiced</td>
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<tr>
<td>songs</td>
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<td>by the pond</td>
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<td>this warm</td>
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<td>summer</td>
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<td>night.</td>
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</tbody>
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*by Georgia Heard*

A Graduation Poem for Two
By Stephanie Klose

I am a teacher
I am a student
Twenty years my trade
Seven classrooms
Fourteen classrooms
Seven hundred children
Fourteen teachers
Have touched my life.
Have touched my life.
Every day I come
Every day I come
My choice, my call
They make me

I'm glad I'm here. I'm glad I'm here.

I come to teach

I come to learn

I come to earn a paycheck. I come to earn my diploma.

I come to be with. I come to be with my friends.

I work very hard

They make me work hard

Lesson plans, forms and more forms

Projects, exams, oral reports

I have to correct. I have to write so many papers. so many papers.

When do I have time? When do I have time for my personal life? for my personal life?
I HATE HOMEWORK!
I love my students
Sometimes I think the kids hate me
Sometimes they make me so mad
Like when it's only been ten minutes since lunch and they ask to go to the restroom and I know it's because they are really worried about how their hair looks...

My teachers hate me
Most of my teachers are pretty cool
Sometimes they make me so mad
Well, they won't let us talk
I write about what's important to me!

(silence)

or when they won't talk
or when they won't stop talking

It's like they don't think we have a life and we should just be able to stop it when the bell rings and start talking about what they want us to talk about instead of what is important to us.

(glare)
They can make me laugh

I like to play
I like to joke and put people on

They help me stay young
New music
New slang
"I love school.....not!"

I try to challenge them

They challenge me

Challenge their

perceptions of the

world and themselves

I challenge them back

I try to keep them

I try to keep them

on their toes

on their toes

Sometimes I'm so

proud of them

Sometimes I get good grades

They work hard

I work hard on something

They rise to my challenge

They succeed

I succeed

I feel so proud

I feel so proud

All seven hundred
have moved on

I worry about them
when they go

I hope I've provided
them each with
little something that
will make the way a
little smoother

And I am often reassured
as I grow to know my
students each year
because invariably
I find something uniquely
wonderful and special
in each one
This gives me hope
Because Because

They are the future I am the future.

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Poems with Two Voices

- Offers two perspectives or opposing points of view
- A dialogue
- Can be done individually or in pairs
- Each voice speaks individually and then the two voices speak together.
- When speaking together, the voices comment on something they agree or agree to disagree about.
- In the end the two sides do not have to agree. They may agree to disagree.
Math

Requirements

• 5 lines for each speaker
• at least 2 combined lines
• at least 2 math vocab terms
• Mandatory vocab:
  - Mrs. Curley
  - hole-digger

I love math
Mrs. Curley is great

I hate math
Mrs. Curley
Criteria

Research due date: ______________ Draft due date: ______________ Final Project due date: ______________

• at least 10 lines for each speaker (individual)
• at least 10 combined speaking lines
• clearly define the development of the Constitution, the crucial events/compromises made at the convention and the positions of the Federalists and Antifederalists
• mandatory terms (choose 10 and highlight in yellow)
  – Constitution - Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire
  – Bill of Rights - ratify
  – The Federalist Papers - May 1790
  – Three-fifths Compromise - James Madison
  – Great Compromise - Philadelphia
  – States’ rights - 3 branches
  – Articles of Confederation - Federalist
  – Antifederalist - Senate and House of Representatives
• Chapter 8 and 9 vocabulary (choose 10 of 25 and highlight in another color)
• a beginning, a middle, and an end to the poem
• historically accurate
• submit research, draft and typed poem
• Present orally or video or other ideas welcome…
Criteria...

Research due date: ___________ Draft due date: ___________ Final Project due date: ___________

• At least 10 lines for each speaker (individual)
• At least 5 combined speaking lines
• Clearly define the development of the Constitution, the crucial events/compromises made at the convention and the positions of the Federalists and Antifederalists
• Mandatory terms (choose 6 and highlight in yellow)
  – Constitution - Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire
  – Bill of Rights - ratify
  – The Federalist Papers - May 1790
  – Three-fifths Compromise - James Madison
  – Great Compromise - Philadelphia
  – States’ rights - 3 branches
  – Articles of Confederation - Federalist
  – Antifederalist - Senate and House of Representatives
• Chapter 8 and 9 vocabulary (choose 6 of 25 and highlight in another color)
• Your poem needs a beginning, a middle, and an end.
• Historically accurate.
• Submit research, draft and typed poem
• Present orally or video or other ideas welcome…