



PARRISH ART MUSEUM

Parrish Home Art Studios

POETRY AND PAINTING: PORTER AND ODES

We have all been spending a lot of time at home. In the exhibition, [“Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters”](#) we see Fairfield Porter painted and wrote about where he lived in Southampton and Maine. He wrote the poem and made the painting below about a bay in Maine.



Fairfield Porter, American, 1907-1975, *Penobscot Bay with Yellow Field*, 1968, Oil on canvas, 38 1/4 x 55 1/4 inches
Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Estate of Fairfield Porter, 1980.10.148.

Farther up the bay the islands still have meadows
And beaches that are sheltered from the rolling ocean swell
And sheep climb up pianos in empty houses on the islands
And the noise they make is harmonious to the private island ear
And the gardening of cropping sheep is beautiful on meadow ledges
While fog pours in the wind from the cold and sunny ocean.

Fairfield Porter, *Penobscot Bay*, 1985

DAY 1

Write your own poem in the form of an ode.

Materials

Paper and pencil

We are going to write poems called odes. An ode is a poem which honors a special person, place or thing. It's a celebration dedicated to that person, place or thing you think is amazing! Here's an example of an ode to chocolate:

Oh chocolate,
how sweet
Oh chocolate,
ranging from white to dark
Oh chocolate,
how you sweeten my life
Oh chocolate,
how you light up my day
Oh chocolate,
what would i do without you
Oh chocolate,
there is no better joy than you
Oh chocolate,
you are the best
and
will always be!

~by Anonymous

Let's recreate a favorite memory to honor the time we've been home or the people we have been spending time with. Maybe there was a time when you snuggled a cozy blanket while reading a wonderful book, or you took a walk on the beach and found a special shell. We will write a poem called an ode to honor your special memory or object, then create an original artwork inspired by it!

The ode has sections called stanzas, each stanza will describe an aspect of the memory you choose. Try to have 5 descriptive lines for each stanza. Use words that reflect your feelings and your 5 senses: touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight Use the worksheet at the end of the lesson to gather your ideas.

1. Begin your poem with the word "Oh", then write your subject, for example, "Oh ice cream", "Oh snugly, red blanket", "Oh golden sunset".
2. On your second line, address your subject: say how your subject makes you feel.
"Oh golden sunset
You fill my heart with joy"

3. Now, add a description:
"You bring wonderment to us
With your brilliant red and orange hues"
4. Talk to your subject, what would you ask?
5. Try to address one of your 5 senses with each stanza, and remember to begin each stanza with, "Oh (your subject)"

DAY 2

Illustrate your Ode. Use whatever materials you prefer. Have fun and enjoy the process!

Materials

Ode from Day 1

Paper

Crayons

Markers

Color pencils

Paints and brushes

If you need inspiration for illustrating your ode, look at the two paintings below. Where do these scenes take place? What time of year is it? What senses (touch, taste, smell, hearing and sight) are included? We've included some examples at the end of the lesson.



Left: Fairfield Porter, American, 1907-1975, [Anne Reading to Laurence](#), 1947, Oil on masonite, 30 x 24 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Estate of Fairfield Porter, 1980.10.21. Right: Fairfield Porter, American, 1907-1975, [A Day Indoors](#), 1962, Liquitex on canvas, 71 3/4 x 54 7/8 inches, Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, N.Y., Gift of the Estate of Fairfield Porter, 1980.10.178.

TAKE IT FURTHER

Visit the exhibition, "Housebound: Fairfield Porter and his Circle of Poets and Painters," at the Parrish Art Museum.
August 7, 2020 - January 31, 2021

You can also visit our website to learn more about Fairfield Porter and read or listen to [selected poems by Fairfield Porter and his friends](#).



We would love to see what you made! To share, post your artwork on Instagram with the hashtag #ParrishHomeArtStudios

Ode worksheet:

TOUCH

SMELL

HEAR

TITLE

TASTE

SIGHT

Illustrated Odes by Tuckahoe School students:

Claire

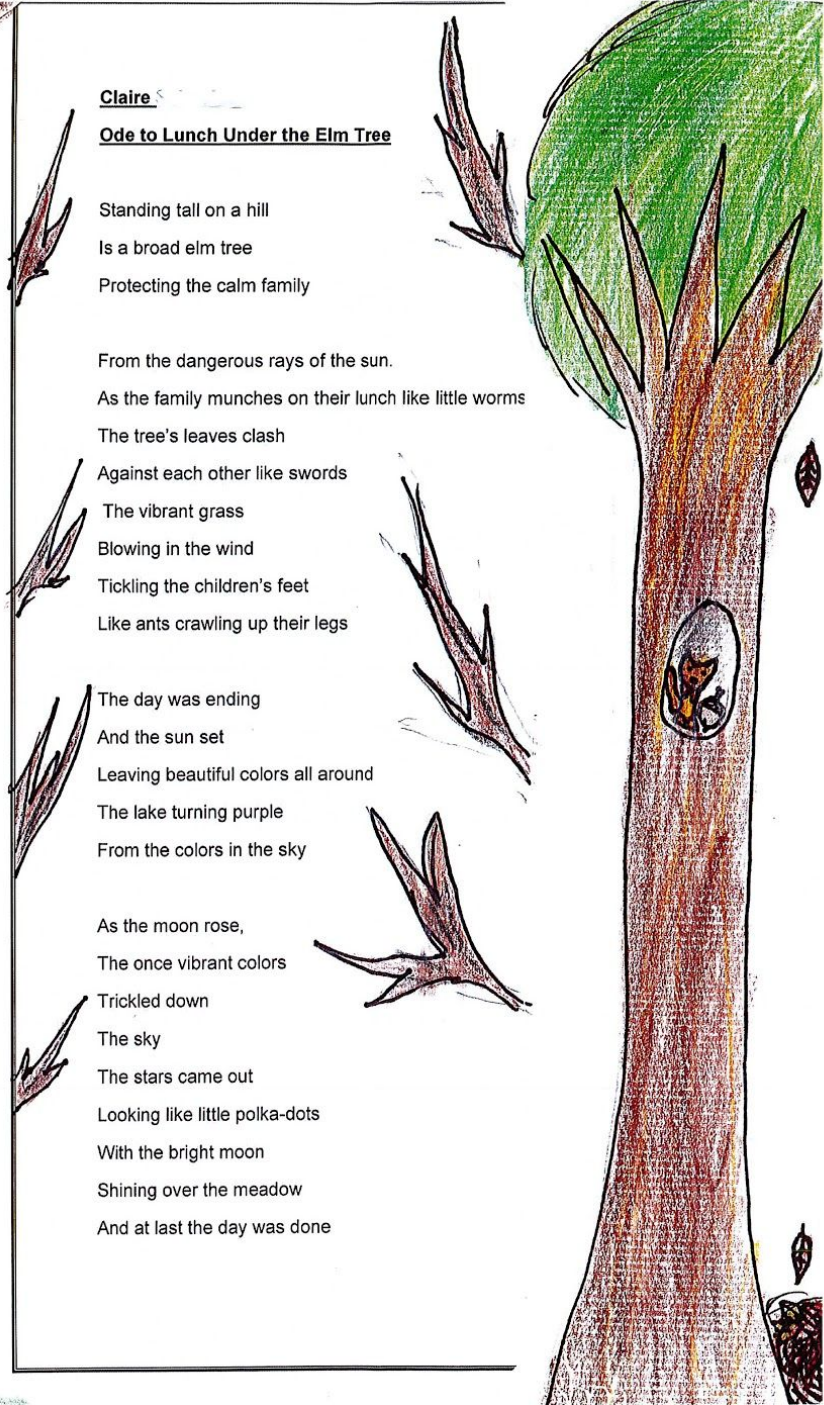
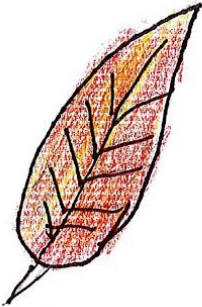
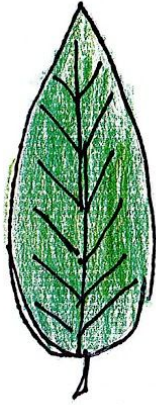
Ode to Lunch Under the Elm Tree

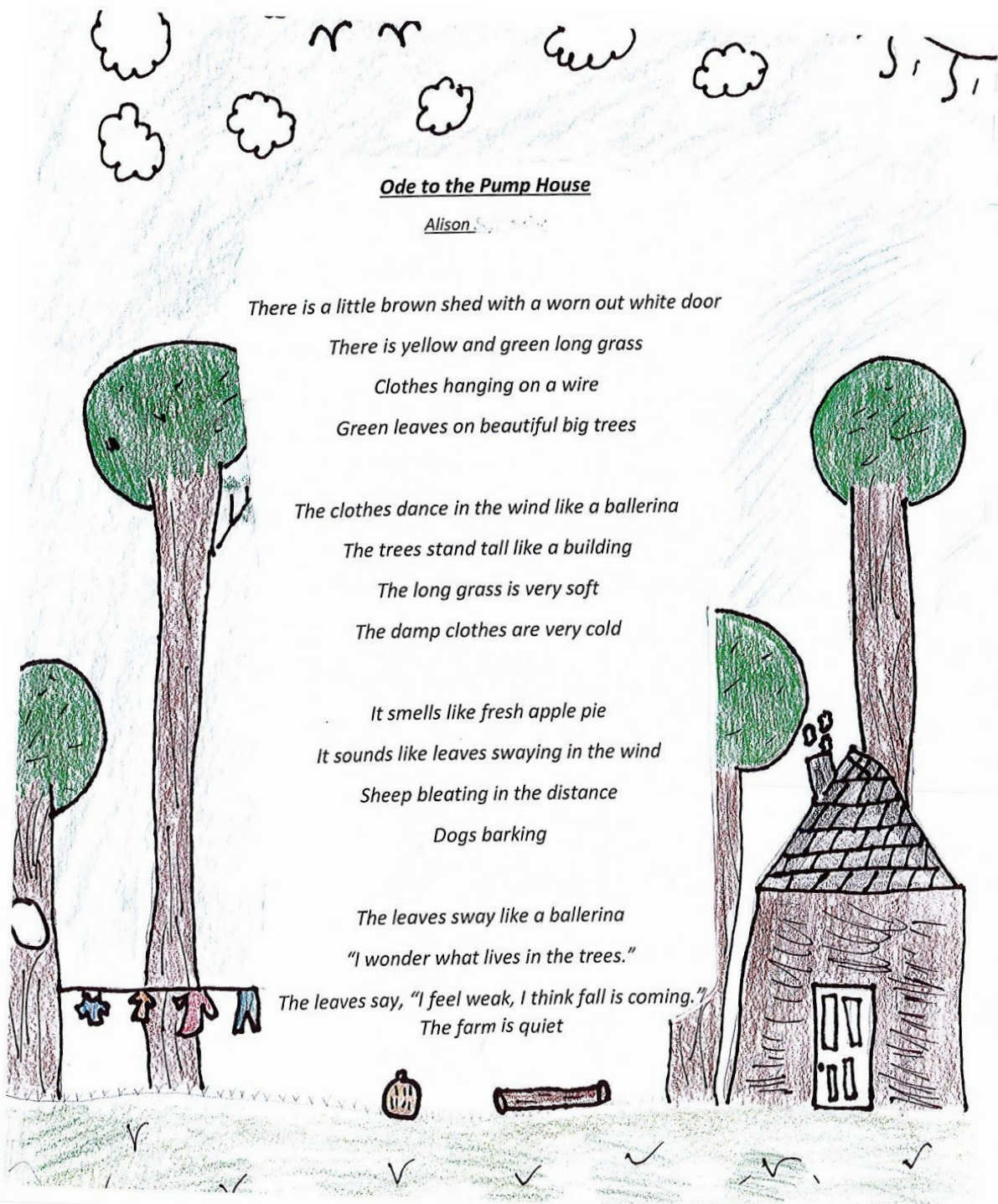
Standing tall on a hill
Is a broad elm tree
Protecting the calm family

From the dangerous rays of the sun.
As the family munches on their lunch like little worms
The tree's leaves clash
Against each other like swords
The vibrant grass
Blowing in the wind
Tickling the children's feet
Like ants crawling up their legs

The day was ending
And the sun set
Leaving beautiful colors all around
The lake turning purple
From the colors in the sky

As the moon rose,
The once vibrant colors
Trickled down
The sky
The stars came out
Looking like little polka-dots
With the bright moon
Shining over the meadow
And at last the day was done





Ode to the Pump House

Alison

There is a little brown shed with a worn out white door

There is yellow and green long grass

Clothes hanging on a wire

Green leaves on beautiful big trees

The clothes dance in the wind like a ballerina

The trees stand tall like a building

The long grass is very soft

The damp clothes are very cold

It smells like fresh apple pie

It sounds like leaves swaying in the wind

Sheep bleating in the distance

Dogs barking

The leaves sway like a ballerina

"I wonder what lives in the trees."

The leaves say, "I feel weak, I think fall is coming."

The farm is quiet

