

What Inspires Poets to Write Poetry? Note-catcher

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Title of Poem and Poet	What inspired the poet?	Where can you see evidence of this in the poem?
<i>“The Yellow Dog” by Jack (Love That Dog, page 37)</i>	<i>Jack’s yellow dog and the shape poems, including “The Apple” by S.C. Rigg</i>	<i>The title of the poem is “The Yellow Dog,” and the poem is in a dog shape with an “ear,” “eye,” and “nose.” Words are repeated to make the lines of the shape.</i>
<i>The first poem about the blue car by Jack (Love That Dog, page 4)</i>	<i>Reading “The Red Wheelbarrow” by William Carlos Williams, and perhaps seeing a blue car splattered with mud on the road</i>	<i>Jack’s poem begins with “So much depends upon,” which is the same line as “The Red Wheelbarrow,” and his poem is about a blue car.</i>
<i>The second poem about the blue car by Jack (Love That Dog, page 8)</i>	<i>Reading “The Tiger” by William Blake, and perhaps seeing a blue car splattered with mud on the road</i>	<i>Jack’s poem has many similarities to “The Tiger” poem, including the same rhyming words at the end of the first and second lines, and the same meter. Because Jack has written about a blue car again, “Blue car, blue car,” he must have been inspired by it.</i>
<i>The poem about the small poems by Jack (Love That Dog, pages 15–16)</i>	<i>The small poems, particularly “dog” by Valerie Worth, and his own yellow dog</i>	<i>The subject of the poem is how Jack liked the small poems. He uses the same free verse style as Valerie Worth and a lot of the same imagery—for example, “in his loose skin.”</i>
<i>The poem about visiting the animal shelter (Love That Dog, pages 25–27)</i>	<i>The event of his family adopting his yellow dog from the animal shelter, and “The Pasture” by Robert Frost</i>	<i>The subject of the poem is the visit to the adoption center and the adoption of the yellow dog. Jack writes, “We won’t be gone too long—You come too,” like Robert Frost does in “The Pasture.”</i>