



★ HONOR THEIR COURAGE ★

“IN THEIR BOOTS” POEM

OVERVIEW & INSTRUCTIONS:

This creative writing activity encourages your students to think outside the box and empathize with a group of people they have been learning about (veterans). Have your students write a biographical poem from a veteran’s perspective by completing each of the following lines. There is an accompanying Student Guide for you to share with your students.

SAY:

We have learned about some of the challenges our nation’s veterans face when transitioning back into civilian life. This activity will ask you to put yourself in the “boots” of a veteran you’ve learned about or another veteran you may know. You will write a biographical poem from the veteran’s perspective by completing each of the following lines. Once complete, think about how the veteran’s perspective may be different than your own. Which lines feel like your own thoughts/feelings, and which lines are different? Think about why these similarities and differences exist.

Read along with me while I say these out loud:

Line 1: A veteran is ...

Line 2: Who has experienced ...

Line 3: Who feels ...

Line 4: Who needs ...

Line 5: Who fears ...

Line 6: Who loves ...

Line 7: Who thinks ...

Line 8: Who believes ...

Line 9: Who deserves ...

This can be homework or an in-classroom activity. We encourage your students to share their poem with the class.