

# ESOL Poetry Selections

10-20 lines

First Name:

Last Name:

ESOL MS Intermediate

## Democracy by Langston Hughes

Democracy will not come  
Today, this year  
Nor ever  
Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right  
As the other fellow has  
To stand  
On my two feet  
And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say,  
Let things take their course.  
Tomorrow is another day.  
I do not need my freedom when I'm dead.  
I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom  
Is a strong seed  
Planted  
In a great need.

I live here, too.  
I want freedom  
Just as you.

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### **One Inch Tall** by Shel Silverstein

If you were only one inch tall, you'd ride a worm to school.  
The teardrop of a crying ant would be your swimming pool.  
A crumb of cake would be a feast  
And last you seven days at least,  
A flea would be a frightening beast  
If you were one inch tall.

If you were only one inch tall, you'd walk beneath the door,  
And it would take about a month to get down to the store.  
A bit of fluff would be your bed,  
You'd swing upon a spider's thread,  
And wear a thimble on your head  
If you were one inch tall.

You'd surf across the kitchen sink upon a stick of gum.  
You couldn't hug your mama, you'd just have to hug her thumb.  
You'd run from people's feet in fright,  
To move a pen would take all night,  
(This poem took fourteen years to write--  
'Cause I'm just one inch tall).

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### **The Watcher in the Woods** **by Dora Sigerson Shorter**

Deep in the wood's recesses cool  
I see the fairy dancers glide,  
In cloth of gold, in gown of green,  
My lord and lady side by side.

But who has hung from leaf to leaf,  
From flower to flower, a silken twine –  
A cloud of grey that holds the dew  
In globes of clear enchanted wine?

Or stretches far from branch to branch,  
From thorn to thorn, in diamond rain,  
Who caught the cup of crystal pure  
And hung so fair the shining chain?

'Tis death, the spider, in his net,  
Who lures the dancers as they glide,  
In cloth of gold, in gown of green,  
My lord and lady side by side.