

Name:



Day Two

Siam Champion

Part 1: Tricky phrases and words

→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- Each poet has three minutes onstage
 - They are about sharing emotion
 - Many slam poems are experimental
 - Successful slam poets connect with the audience
 - speaking about the power of poetry
-
- champion **CHAM** | pee | yun
 - audience **AW** | dee | unss
 - gestures **JES** | churz
 - convey kun | **VAY**
 - experimental ex | pair | ih | **MEN** | tal



Decoding practice:

- Find the vowels in these longer words
- Write a v above each vowel
- Count the vowels
- Write the number of syllables in the word
- Try clapping the syllables and say the word

The first one is done for you.

performers ^v₃ randomly _____ connecting _____

experimental _____ successful _____ ambassador _____



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// one minute

Part 2: Last read

WPM _____

A microphone waits in the spotlight. A young man stands at the back of the stage, his head bowed. The audience shouts and claps. Then, they fall silent. The young man steps forward, leans into the microphone, and begins to speak. “Mama,” he says, hitting each word hard, “I don’t think we hung the ghosts out long enough to dry!” Cries of “Whooh!” and “Yeah!” ring out. This is Justin, and he is 17 years old. He is a poetry slam champion.

At a poetry slam, poets become performers. Each poet has three minutes onstage. Poets may not read their poems or use props. Three judges score each poem. Often, the judges are picked randomly from the audience. Slams are about connecting people through poetry. They are about sharing emotion. The audience often gets loud, cheering a great poem or booing a bad one.

Many slam poems are experimental. Poets might scream or cry. They might use wild gestures, or run and jump onstage. They use their bodies as tools to convey deep feelings.

Successful slam poets connect with the audience. Justin is a big success. He has won \$10,000. He has won box seat tickets to a Knicks game. He has even worked as a teen ambassador, speaking about the power of poetry. He told the *Daily News*, “Every time I perform, I intend on changing someone’s life.”

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Would you rather watch a poetry slam, or perform in one? Why?

Share your answer with your partner. What would your partner rather do? Why?
