



*River of Words in the Connecticut River Watershed* is collecting lessons that teachers have developed to foster creative engagement with the natural and built environments in the Connecticut River Valley. To begin, we invited teachers in the watershed region between Holyoke, MA and Brattleboro, VT to share their favorite lessons that *connect kids to their watersheds and imaginations through poetry and art.*

Teachers responded generously with tried and true lessons integrating science, literacy and arts with hands-on investigations of outdoor sites and community resources. The lessons are conceived of as stories rather than scripts, narrated by teachers in hopes that other teachers will transform them with their students to create new connections in the Connecticut River Watershed.

### **DESIGN FEATURES**

- Aligned with Common Core State Standards (English Language Arts) and Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (Art and Science)
- Developed by Teachers for Teachers
- Organized by Grade Level and Science Topic
- Interdisciplinary Science, Literacy and Visual Arts
- Individual Lessons and Sequences of Lessons
- Field Investigations and Classroom Activities
- Complete with Handouts, Student Work Samples and Images

### **SCIENCE, LITERACY AND ARTS INTEGRATION**

The lessons reflect common pedagogical approaches and a shared commitment to engaging all children in actively constructing learning. Key underlying thinking skills are taught and modeled across disciplines, including: Observing, Describing, Reflecting and Questioning. Featured approaches and strategies include:

- Place-Based Education
- Inquiry Based Science
- Balanced Literacy and Exploring Poetry
- Visual Thinking Strategies
- Engaging Multiple Learning Styles

### **WHAT MAKES A WATERSHED?**

- Interconnectedness and Biodiversity
- Multiple Points of Entry for Inquiry and Action
- Nested Sense of Place: Up Close and Expansive
- Practical and Poetic Perspectives

### **HOW CAN PEOPLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

- Foster Attentiveness to Local Surroundings
- Build Community Partnerships
- Speak Up and Take Action

*“Watershed  
is an area of land  
within which  
all living things are  
inextricably linked  
by their common  
water course...”*

~ John Wesley Powell  
Geologist & Explorer

*“Actions we take on a local level “trickle up” through the system just as our  
small local brooks “trickle down” to the Connecticut.”*

~ Where the Great River Rises: An Atlas of the Connecticut River Watershed