Creativity should be central for language teachers as creative communication is both needed and crucial in today’s world. The use of literature is an effective way of encouraging creativity in language classes. However, sometimes it is difficult to get students interested in it. Including creative projects in lessons generates an environment of possibilities which offers choices and encourages students to play with ideas and words. The results can be refreshing, motivating and rewarding.

The aim of this presentation is to discuss the issue of poetry and L2 learners in the Japanese university context. The presenter will describe how language teachers can use poetry as L2 literacy practice in the Japanese EFL classroom.

In this presentation, I will outline a stylistics approach to teaching language through literature. I will focus on one of the texts read in an advanced-level course at a university in Japan, describing the process of heightening the students’ awareness of textual features and their implications both within the text and relative to its broader cultural context. I will make reference to excerpts from the story, stylistics training exercises, and work produced by students.

A cultural-stylistic approach to teaching creative short story writing can be especially appropriate for those about to study abroad or for returnees. Learners read short stories that illustrate various stages of the foreign sojourn that also introduce various stylistic elements accessible to the learners. Students worked in groups to write a cultural adaptation of Hemingway’s “Hills like White Elephants” earlier in the semester and then each student wrote their own short story and meta-analysis.