

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY

PRE-READING

- A** Look at the cartoon. Does the boy like the way poetry is taught in school? Why or why not?



- B** Now read what some famous poets have to say about reading poetry. Do they agree with the boy in the cartoon? Why or why not?
- *A poem should not mean, but be.* (Archibald MacLeish)
 - *Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood.* (T. S. Eliot)
 - *You can tear a poem apart to see what makes it tick ... You're back with the mystery of having been moved by words.* (Dylan Thomas)
- C** Think of a poem you have studied in school. How was it taught? Would the boy in the cartoon approve? Do you agree with him? Explain.
- D** Look at the cartoon again. The girl doesn't actually say "I'm pretty", but we can understand that this is what she means. What clues help us to reach this conclusion?

► We use a thinking skill called **INFERRING** to help us understand information that is not explicitly stated. That is, we "read between the lines" and draw conclusions based on the information that we do have. Can you think of some instances in which you use this skill? Give examples.