Introduction to Poetry by Billy Collins

I ask them to take a poem and hold it up to the light like a color slide or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem and watch him probe his way out, or walk inside the poem’s room and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to water-ski across the surface of a poem waving at the author’s name on the shore.

But all they want to do is tie the poem to a chair with rope and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose to find out what it really means.

Narrator: I/they poet teacher

Goal - what does a poem mean?

Verse

Imagery: explore for understanding

sense things, it reveals more

free verse

Don’t get too caught up in analysis!

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