

MWP DEMO LESSON

“Bringing Literature Alive Using *Night* by Elie Weisel”

Gr. 10

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Goals and Objectives:

- Allow students to connect with literature on a personal level
- Create a piece of poetry that uses rich sensory images
- Understand the elements of theme
- Learn how to evoke feelings and passion in writing

Minnesota State Standards; Gr.9-12 Language Arts Benchmarks

- Make inferences and draw conclusions based on explicit and implied information
- Evaluate a literary selection from several critical perspectives
- Plan, organize, and compose narrative, expository, descriptive, critical and research writing to address a specific audience and purpose.

Introduction and Background:

- Elie Weisel writes poetry on p.32 in *Night*, although it appears in prose form.
- Show this passage which begins, *Never shall I forget...*, in poetry form on an overhead or power point.
- Read this aloud to students

Explore/Enable

- Explain to students that they will be creating their own *Never shall I forget* poem based on an unforgettable memory.
- Prepare students to remember vivid happy, sad, tragic, painful or joyful memories based on dramatic “unforgettable” photographs to help jog their memories.
- Divide images into “Happy”; These images can be further broken down into subcategories such as Family Fun, Paradise Vacations, Sports and/or Risk Taking
- After showing students about 15 “happy” or joyful pictures, ask them to write down their own happy memories. Stress listing rather than details for 5-min.
- Repeat the process with sad pictures. Subcategories include WWII images, the Holocaust, 9-11. Hurricane Katrina, Famine, Sports losses, Children or families in tears.
- Again ask students to recall difficult memories in their lives in a 5 minute quick write in list form.

Reflect/Rethink

- With a partner, ask students to share their list to help them decide which memory might make the best poem (5-10 minutes)
- With a vivid memory in mind, ask students to quietly reflect on this memory jotting down as many memories as they can think of surrounding this occasion. (5 minutes).

- Stress the importance of remembering images such as smells, sounds, people who were there, the weather, feelings, time, and place.
- Share a sample poem of your own with students following the template
- Ask students to write their own poem following the model or a variation of their own.

Never Shall I Forget Template:

- Each line begins, *Never Shall I Forget*, then includes
 - Line or Stanza 1: Time and place (be specific)
 - Line or Stanza 2: One powerful vivid image
 - Line or Stanza 3: A person's name or relationship + sensory image
 - Line or Stanza 4: Interpretation or meaning of memory
 - Line or Stanza 5: Weather Feature
 - Line or Stanza 6: Powerful feeling or emotion
 - Line or Stanza 7: New Attitude or what you learned as a result
 - Line or Stanza 8: Statement of Hope
 - Line or Stanza 9: Never shall I forget these things as long as I live
 - Line or Stanza 10: Never.

Never Shall I forget sample poem:

Never shall I forget that mighty oak in Illinois

*Never shall I forget the searing pain when I fell,
crashing to the ground.*

*Never shall I forget my mother rushing over to soothe my trembling body,
cradling my limp wrist*

*Never shall I forget my five year old foolishness
Never shall I forget climbing higher and higher to do my handstand,
like the trapeze artists in the circus*

*Never shall I forget my tears, pouring from my eyes,
knowing I would never be in the circus.*

*Never shall I forget my wild imagination and curiosity.
Never shall I forget that I wasn't invincible.
Never shall I forget these things as long as I live.*

Never.