

Minnesota Writing Project

--- Demonstration Lesson Template ---

Title of lesson: Write a Poem - Off You Go! (Using a mentor text and modeling)

Suggested grade/age: 6-8

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: 1-2 class periods

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:

Objectives/Standards:

6.7.3.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured events

b. Use literary and narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, rhythm and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters

d. Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, figurative and sensory language to convey experiences and events

6.7.4.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

6.7.5.5 With some guidance and support from peers and adults, use a writing process to develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, drafting, revising, edition, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Goals: I can develop ideas and feelings about topics and themes and express them in poetry. I can write a poem today using precise verbs, repetition, and rhythm.

Development of students' skills:

Prior to lesson: Students and teacher compile ideas about poetry based on prior knowledge and by reading many poems, as a whole class, partners, individually. Students complete poetry logs to record favorite techniques, poetic devices, and poems.

Around lesson time: Students and teacher look at mentor poems, try them out, try our own ideas, then revise, rewrite, revise, rewrite.

To end the unit/celebrate/reflect: Students publish poetry books of 8-10 poems demonstrating variety and meaning and perform poetry slam.

Best Practices in lesson:

-Uses a mentor poem 'Summer' by Walter Dean Myers

-Uses teacher modeling of poem brainstorm

-Three easy steps (choose a topic, brainstorm, write poem) broken up by writing partners sharing

-Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening

-Class anchor chart - things we notice in the poem

Brief summary/outline of lesson:

- 1) **Read** the poem 'Summer' out loud to a partner. Listen to your partner read the poem out loud.
- 2) **Listen** to a classmate (or 3) read the poem out loud to the class
- 3) **Talk to your partner:** What do you notice? What stands out to you? What do you like?

Next, create a class anchor chart together. For example:

Mentor Text "Summer" by Walter Dean Myers

We noticed that...

- repetition of first few lines, last few lines
- repetition of the word 'days' and endings like 'ing'
- it felt laid back, with a musical rhythm
- first letter of certain words is repeated like 'bugs buzzing' 'days, daisies'
- 'sweat is what you got days' - I like the grammar gives it a certain tone, adds to the rhythm
- rhyme with no set pattern, hot days, got days, sleeping/peeping
- form - two stanzas, have same number of lines, 6

Now you try it!

Step 1: Pick a topic - a season, time of day, sport, activity, person, place, time period. Brainstorm with your partner!

Step 2: Brain Dump

Write down every word, adjective, noun, verb, feeling, sound that reminds you of your topic.

3) Then build a poem like Walter Dean Myers' poem called Summer. You may use this template:

I _____ days, _____ days
 _____ is what you got days.

 _____ and _____.
 _____ days.

 _____,
 _____ and _____.
 Of, (or to, with) _____ days, _____ days
 _____ days.

Optional Mid Workshop Share

Turn and Talk with your partner

Read your ideas/poem to your partner

"Something I like so far is...because..."

"I wonder what would happen if you tried..."

If you want to wrap up – read aloud to a partner or class. Revisit goals/objectives

Related Resources:

(What technology, articles, books, or supplies do you recommend?)

-A document camera/smartboard is helpful for the teacher to model the writing.

-Lesson modeled after: <http://www.crsd.org/Page/762>

-Poem can be found in various ways on the internet:

https://www.poetrysociety.org/psa/poetry/poetry_in_motion/atlas/atlanta/summer/preview:en-us.jpg

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

-Use different mentor poets/poems

-Anchor charts can be student created and/or teacher created

-Anchor charts can be used for different genres of writing/reading

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