Title of lesson:  Where are you From? - Writing “Where I'm From” Poems

Suggested grade/age:  Grades 3-9

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: 2-3 days

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:
(Why is this lesson important in the development of your students' skills or knowledge? What do you want students to learn or be able to do? What “best practice” does this lesson incorporate?)

• Students will analyze the framework of a “Where I’m From” poem by reading mentor texts (reading – writing connection).
• Students will brainstorm ideas for their “Where I’m From” poems by using their neighborhood maps (incorporating the artistic learning style).
• Students will begin to draft their “Where I’m From” poems (creating images through the use of strong language).

Brief summary/outline of lesson:
(What steps do you take to implement this lesson in your classroom? Where is this lesson located in the school year or unit—beginning, middle, end? Does this lesson scaffold or build to a culminating assessment or demonstration of learning?)

• This lesson could be used toward the beginning of the year, to help students get to know one another.
• This lesson could also be used as part of a larger poetry unit or to complete student portfolios of writing at any time during the school year.
• Steps to implement this lesson:
  o Give students a mentor poem (in groups of 3-4) to analyze. Have them record what they notice about the poem on chart paper.
  o Gallery walk – have students walk around the room to read what others noticed about their mentor poems.
  o Create a class anchor chart together on what “Where I’m From” poems include.
  o Teacher uses his/her own neighborhood map to model how to create a jot list of memories (students have drawn their maps the day before).
  o Students write their own jot list of memories.
  o Teacher models how to use jot list to create lines for his/her “Where I’m From” poem.
  o Students share their jot lists with each other and also share potential lines for their poems.
  o Students begin the drafts of their “Where I’m From” poems.
Related Resources:
(What technology, articles, books, or supplies do you recommend?)

- Students could create a digital story based on their “Where I’m From” poem
- Mentor texts:
  - “Where I’m From” by George Ella Lyon
  - Student exemplars from previous years

Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:

- Depending on the ages of your students, you may need to provide more or less scaffolding and/or modeling at certain times.

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