

poetic YOUTH

Lesson 3: Symbolism and Imagery, Part II

Learning Objectives: Learn how to use detail to create symbolism and imagery

Warm-Up: Read “Questions and Answers” by Jose Edmundo Ocampo Reyes, translated by Cirilo F. Bautista (in *Poetry International*, Issue 12, page 95). Then, play the metaphor question and answer game. Ask the students to write down five general questions on one side of their paper. These can be anything, i.e. “What is love?” or “What are Mondays?” Then, ask them to flip their paper over and write down five random descriptions of anything, the more detailed, the better. For example, “plants covered in morning dew, a wet dog running through the house shaking water everywhere,” etc. Then, one person will ask one of their questions to another student. That student will have to answer the question with the corresponding numbered sentence from their detailed descriptions. Repeat.

Length: 15 minutes

Writing Exercises: Ask the students to write a description as detailed as possible of a barn, a beach, or a house. Ask them to incorporate the feeling of falling in love into their imagery. For example, “The barn is red and swollen like my heart. Bits of hay flutter at my feet as the sun shines brightly.” After a few minutes of writing, change the prompt to describing the barn, a beach, or a house in relation to falling out of love. For example, “The red paint of the barn is peeling and chipping away with each passing day. Torn pieces of hay lay scattered about my feet and run away in the breeze.” Once finished, allow everyone to share what they’ve written if they wish.

Length: 25 minutes