

poetic YOUTH

Lesson 4: Halloween

Learning Objectives: Halloween (and overall) spookiness.

Supplies: Candy, paper, pens, (2) Halloween Buckets, & cut-up Halloween poetry

Length of session: 60 minutes

Opening: Creative check-in: “If i were a piece of candy, I would be...” and a short reason why.

Length: 5 minutes

Warm-Up: Rhyming trick-or-treat poems. Short, six line poems, two lines of which are already given to them (Trick or treat, Smell my feet/Give me something good to eat). Have the group share “spooky” Halloween-y words aloud; a facilitator writes them on the board. Aim for fifteen spooky words (or one from each student)

Challenge: two lines they write should rhyme. For example, “Trick or treat, Trick or treat/ Give me something good to eat/ I’m a vampire with eyes so red/ It’d be sad if you couldn’t get to bed/All I want is candy, don’t you get it?/It’s not that hard. Here’s my bag: fill it.”

Length: 5-10 minutes

Writing Exercise 1: Hopefully they have dressed up for Halloween (if not, we can have them think for a minute what they would dress up as OR have them describe the costume they are going to wear that night). In one minute, list as many words as possible that describes your costume. In ten minutes, write down five sentences that describes what your costume/persona would be doing on Halloween/a scary night. Using one of the five sentences you’ve written, write a six line poem around that scenario. Students may use some of the words from the warm-up.

Writing Exercise 2: A facilitator walks around with a bucket of lines cut from Halloween/Gothic poetry (think Poe, King, etc.). Each student picks three random lines. These lines serve as the starting lines to their poems (in whatever order they like). Students add five lines to the three they are given to create an eight line poem. The poem does not have to rhyme.

Length: 10 minutes

Closing: Gather in a circle and ask students to share any of the three poems they have written. Depending on time constraints, they can share the whole poem or a couple of lines.

Length: 10 minutes