

poetic YOUTH

Lesson 5: Creative Exercises

Learning Objectives: Have fun with language

Warm-Up: In *Open The Door* on page 264, there is an exercise that uses the poem “Ode to My Socks” by Pablo Neruda. It is simple but is an excellent exercise to get the ball rolling and pencils moving in the workshop. I can have the poem printed up for everyone and we can each share a portion of it. Afterwards, ask each student to write a poem about an object they love. Encourage the students to write about the object in as many ways as they can and to try to move freely like Neruda from one image to the next.

Length: 15 minutes

Writing Exercise: Located in *Open The Door* on page 317, titled *Autobiographia Litteraria*. Prepare four different forms of writing from a multitude of sources like books, magazines, Google, newspaper, instruction manuals, historical documents, etc. Label each of the writing samples #1-4 and pass them out. Ask students to fold a piece of paper in half and jot down the numbers one through four. Ask the students to record their favorite part from each of those writing sources correlating with the number on their paper. Now the students turn their paper over and make another list numbered 1-4. This time, the students are asked to title their list “my favorite memories.” To help the students come up with lines, suggest including quotes from parents and friends, vignettes or anecdotes, fragmentary memories or dreams, lists of favorite foods, games, activities, family rituals, phrases from songs or movies, etc. Afterwards, combine the two columns together and make whatever revisions are necessary to form a complete poem.