

poetic YOUTH

Lesson 5: Haikus & Revision

Learning Objectives: Create haikus and revise formerly written poems

Supplies: Paper, pencils

Length of session: 60 minutes

Opening: Since haikus often deal with nature, let's do a creative check-in: "My name is _____, and if I were the weather, I would be..." Then, one facilitator asks students if they are familiar with haikus, and calls on students to explain what they are. Then the facilitator briefly explains the format of haikus and writes on the board or projects an image on the board for reference. Read one or two examples together.

Writing Exercise 1: Challenge the students to write a haiku. It can be about whatever they wish, but we should provide some ideas to serve as inspiration. For example, write a haiku that describes something they are passionate about, or create a brief descriptive haiku beginning with a simile or metaphor, for example, "The moon is a pearl." Ask the students to share their haikus with the rest of the class.

Length: 10-15 minutes

Writing Exercise 2: Ask the students to go through the poems they've written and select their favorite in order to revise it. One facilitator gives a brief introduction to the idea of revision, mentioning that breaking apart the word revision gives you "re" and "vision", meaning to "see again." Remind them that the goal of revision is to help them feel proud of their writing in the published chapbook. Students circle their poem (especially if the page is cluttered); the facilitators collect them and randomly distribute them around the class. The students underline the line that they think is the best in the poem. Then, hand the poems back to the authors. Students select the two weakest lines of their poems and remove them. Gives brief strategies for revision, asking students to think about things like word choice, rhythm, rhyming, and the overall structure of their poems. Students begin the revision process on a new page with facilitators assisting as necessary.

Length: 20-25 minutes

Closing: Gather in a circle and have the students share (if finished) their newly revised poem(s).

Length: 5-10 minutes