

poetic YOUTH

Lesson 6: Haikus and Colorful Writing

Learning Objectives: Have fun with language

Warm-Up: Exercise from OTD (pg 341): Food Haikus. First, read a couple of haikus so everyone grasps the 5-7-5 syllabic structure and simplicity. Then, ask everyone what their favorite kind of food is. Write down its taste, texture, smell, origin, color, sound, who cooks it, etc. These questions and answers will create the base words/phrases to use in our haikus. What does this food remind you of? If this food were an animal, what would it be? If this food were a landscape, what would it be? Then, ask everyone to circle their favorite words and phrases to create their haiku.

Length: 10 minutes

Writing Exercise 1: Colorful Writing. Pick up a bunch of free paint cards from Lowe's or Home Depot. Spread them out on a table. Have students choose one; use the name of that color (which is usually kind of ridiculous or unexpected) as the title to a short story, poem, or essay. Encourage everyone to use the actual color of the card to describe the tone of the poem. For example, if you grab "avocado green, coral pink, and mediterranean blue," evoke those calm earthy tones in whatever you choose to write about, not only in visuals but in feeling and metaphor as well.

Length: 25 min.

Writing exercise 2: Names. Where did yours come from or where do you wish it came from? Who are you named after? Who are your father and mother named after? Odd names. Nicknames. Street names. Family names. What you wished you were named. Why are names important? Why are they not important? Describe how a different name would change your daily life (school attendance, what your nickname might be, as simple as a different name on your Starbucks cup, etc).

Length: 15 minutes