

Title: Pictographic Poetry of Current Events

Grade Ranges:

 K-4
 X 5-8
 9-12

Subject Tag:

Creative Writing: Poetry

Social Studies: Social Science: Psychology

Synopsis:

The students will write a pattern, shaped, or pictographic poem displaying their feelings about a current event. This lesson reinforces the connection between images and words, giving students a better understanding of symbolism.

Keywords:

pattern, shaped poetry, pictographic poetry, current events, descriptive writing, imagery

Body:

1. Begin by having students participate in a discussion on a specific current event. Focus the discussion on images of that current event. If you have a discussion the events of September 11, for example, images to focus on include: the World Trade Center, the New York City skyline, firefighters, the Pentagon, and airplanes. To begin the discussion, you can read from newspaper or magazine articles that describe someone else's reflections.
2. After the discussion, students will choose an image from the current event and create a list of descriptive words that they will use to outline a picture of the image. Students may choose a literal picture from the event and simply use its edges as a frame for the words that make up their poem. Some students may think more symbolically. For example, for a current event that includes people who have opposing views, a student could use a picture of a wall and then write words representing each viewpoint on opposite sides of the wall. Regardless of their poetry style, students can create their poem using 11x14 paper and colored writing utensils.
3. Finally, students will discuss each poem with the class.

Related Links:

1. Dealing with Tragedy

<http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/tips.html>

Tips and resources for teachers and parents from Thirteen/WNET New York dealing with the events of September 11th.

2. About: Pattern Poetry

http://kidswriting.about.com/cs/patternpoetry/index_2html

Links for writing pictographic poetry from About.com's Creative Writing for Teens section.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to analyze the results of a current event and attach organized personal feelings to it.
2. Students will be able to display their creativity through the use of poetry.

Standards:

NY: 2 — Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

3 – Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

4 – Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

NYC: E2c – The student produces a narrative account that engages the reader by establishing a context, creating a point of view, and otherwise developing reader interest.

CT: 2 – Students will produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop, and substantiate ideas and experiences. **3** – Students will apply the conventions of standard English in oral and written communication.

NJ: 3.2 – All students will listen actively in a variety of situations to information from a variety of sources. **3.3** – All students will write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

Prerequisite Skills:

1. Knowledge of specific current event used in discussion
2. Knowledge of use of descriptive words for poetry

Time Required:

approximately 45 minutes

Technology and Materials Needed:

1. Magazines and newspapers to get information on the current event and ideas for the outline of the poems
2. 11x14 poster boards for students to complete their poems on
3. crayons, markers, and/or colored pencils to draw the image and write the words around it

Procedures:

Assessment Criteria:

1. The efforts, creativity, and neatness of the students should be assessed.

Recommended Lesson Plan Review Date:

Review Comments: