

Teacher Resource:

Ekphrastic Writing

Sponsored by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation



Ekphrastic Writing

This unit was developed by Mrs. Ashlie Dempsey, a Language Arts teacher at Byrnedale Elementary School, as a part of a collaboration project between the Toledo Museum of Art and area educators. The unit consists of pre- and post- visit lesson plans to accompany a museum field trip. It is intended for 6th–8th grade students.

Standards Being Addressed

CCSS ELA RL 7.4

Analyze words/phrases, and impact of rhyme, alliteration, repetition, on a piece of literature or poem..

CCSS ELA RL 7.5

Analyze how a poem's form and structure contribute to its meaning.

CCSS ELA W 7.3

NARRATIVE: Write narratives to develop real of imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS ELA W 7.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, cite sources, and collaborate with others.

Unit Goals

- Students will read different poems and analyze the impact of rhyme, alliteration, and repetition.
- Students will write an Ekphrastic poem about a piece of art to develop an imagined experience using effective technique and relevant descriptive details.

Museum Visit Type and Goals

Ekphrastic Writing

- Write an original poem inspired by objects in the museum's glass collection that will be entered into the Ekphrastic writing contest.

Key Words

- Ekphrastic
- Rhyme
- Alliteration
- Repetition

	Lesson Title/Goals	Relationship to Unit Goals
Pre-Visit (several lessons)	<p>Introduction to poetry and Ekphrastic writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expose students to different types of poems and previous Ekphrastic writing samples	<p>Students need to be able to read and understand poetry in order to write it. They also need to see and read previous contest winners in order to understand the goal of the contest.</p>
Museum Visit	<p>Ekphrastic Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• View a glassblowing demonstration to show students how much work and effort it takes to create glass works of art• Write Haiku, Tanka, and Renga as a warm up to help students practice writing poetry about art• Given a small range of galleries, students are to find and select a work of art that will be the focus of their Ekphrastic poetry	<p>Students need to recognize the effort and procedures behind creating works of art in glass in order to write about these works.</p> <p>Students need to practice writing poems about artwork in order to write an Ekphrastic poem for the contest.</p>
Post-Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In small groups, students are going to match the Ekphrastic writing winning poems to the artworks they think it's about• Individually, students are going to start writing their Ekphrastic poems• Final copies of the poems should be written on Google Drive so that students can easily share with each other and their teacher in order to get feedback	<p>Students need to see many examples of previous poetry contest winners in order to get ideas for their own poetry. Once they've written their poem, they will need feedback in order to improve it and get it ready for contest submission.</p>

Pre-Visit Lesson Plan: Exploring Poetry

Step 1:

To help students explore more poetry, read George Ella Lyon's *Where I'm From* as a class.

Step 2:

Brainstorm poetry inspirations from students' own lives by creating a pre-writing web. Use the ideas to write "Where I'm From" poems.

Step 3:

Share poems with the class.

Step 4:

Have students pick a poem that speaks to them, and copy it down and illustrate it. Have students identify figurative language, rhyme, and repetition in their poems.

Step 5:

Print copies of the previous Ekphrastic poetry winners from the Toledo Museum of Art website. Have students read and analyze the poems alongside the works of art about which they were written.

Step 6:

Have students write an acrostic poem using their names, an idea, or adjective.

Post Visit: Ekphrastic Writing Poetry Contest

Step 1:

Have students write Ekphrastic poems about a work of art in the Toledo Museum of Art collection.

Step 2:

Enter student poems into the Ekphrastic Writing Poetry Contest at the Toledo Museum of Art:

<http://www.toledomuseum.org/learn/writingcontest/>