



Exploring the Writing Process with Primary Source Materials

Lesson Topic: Drafting - Mood in Poetry (Part 1)

Teaching Note

This lesson can be taught as the first of a two-part lesson in conjunction with "Drafting - Mood In Poetry (Part 2)" or as a standalone lesson.

Lesson Plan Created By:

Elaine Temel

Grade Levels:

6th - 8th, High School

Primary Source:

Letter and corrected reprint of Walt Whitman's "O Captain, My Captain" with comments by author, 9 February. 9 February, 1888. Manuscript/Mixed Material.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mcc.055/>.

Compelling Question:

What is mood in poetry?

Supporting Question:

How do poets create mood?

Objective

In this 50 minute lesson, students will explore a corrected version of Walt Whitman's "O Captain! My Captain!" to better understand the use of mood in poetry.

Standards - Common Core:

Lesson Standards 6th - 8th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6-8.3.D

Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

Lesson Standards 9th - 10th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.D

Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

Lesson Standards 11th - 12th

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11-12.3.D

Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

Lesson Activity Instructions

Whole Group Class Discussion Question(s): (5 - 10 minutes)

- Have you ever been in a mood?
- What types of moods do we have?
- The mood of a poem is the overall feeling or feelings created by the poet and experienced by the reader in a poem.
- How do poets create a mood in a poem?

Poets create a mood by using figurative language, imagery and sensory details, and diction. Review these terms as needed.

Lesson Activity One: (25 - 30 minutes)

In pairs, students will take turns reading the poem aloud. Next, they will work together to complete the chart on the Drafting - Mood in Poetry (Part 1) worksheet.

Lesson Activity Two: (10 - 15 minutes)

As a whole class, review students' answers on the chart on the worksheet.

Closing Summary (5 minutes)

Review the concept that poets create a mood by using figurative language, imagery and sensory details, and diction.

See accompanying activity handouts for students.

Credits

The creation of this lesson plan was funded by a grant from the Library of Congress *Teaching with Primary Sources* program.