

ARTS LINK

Lesson Plan

Foley Poems *40 minutes total*

Attention/Play/Warm-up Intro: 10 minutes

Objective:

Students will be introduced to the idea of interpreting a poem through the use of sound (foley). A short clip (filmed day of) of Jenny using foley while reciting the poem “Crickets” will open the lesson.

Supplies: Paper and pencil, household objects

Instruction:

INTRODUCE SELF

FIND: Introduction of lesson – For this lesson, you’ll be creating a soundscape for a poem. You can work with a partner for this, or alone. We’ll be using household objects, a pen and some paper, and you’ll need a little room to move, and a surface for you to use like a desk or table.

WATCH: Video about FOLEY

MOVE/PLAY: Go and find some objects to use for making sound. Look for things that will crunch, or squeak, or sound a little like rain (this can be beads on a string), seek out soft sounds, and loud sounds., and anything interesting. Bring your objects back to your work surface when you’re ready.

MODEL: Warm up of exploring the sounds the objects make.

WRITE: End with question: What sound does each object make? Write

down the name of the object and what you think it sounds like.

Connection: 5 minutes

Objective: Students will review the definitions of “poem” and “mood,” and explore some poems.

Supplies: Pen & paper

Instruction:

DEFINE: Poem: A written composition, often using rhythm, rhyme, metaphor, and other such artistic techniques to express an idea, feelings, or a story.

READ: Poem by Basho (feeling is humor)

DEFINE: Mood: Mood in a story or poem is created by means of describing a setting or attitude through the senses: sound, taste, touch, smell, sight.

READ: example prose (mood is peaceful)



WRITE: Describe how the scene outside your window looks right now. What is the weather like? Do your best to use your senses – what color is the sky, are there clouds, is there wind, rain, snow? Are there sounds? When you describe, you will show us the mood of the scene.

Creation (observation and note taking): 20 minutes

Objective: Students will read and find poems to create a soundscape.

Supplies: Paper and pencil, objects

Instruction:

MODEL: Read a poem, and highlight verbs and words within the poem that hint at sound.

THINK: Now it's your turn. Read through the poems here, and find one that you'd like to create a soundscape for. Choose one you like, and then come back.

FIND: Read through your poem and underline places where you think the sounds will work best. Verbs (action words) like crunch, or raining, are good places to start, but there may be other words like adjectives (words that describe) like "soft" or "loud" that work too. Take a moment now and underline.

MODEL: Remember that your sounds don't need to be exact. Wind blowing can be something like the soft sound of a piece of fabric sliding across the desk. Crunchy leaves can be paper. Test out the objects you have on hand and you say the lines of your poem, and see what works best. Most of these poems are short, so try for two or three sounds at the most. You're trying to help enhance the mood of the poem. (take time here to really model some lines from each poem with some of your objects for sound – show repetition, loud/soft fades, etc.)

MOVE: Now it's your turn! Practice saying your poem and performing the sounds with the lines. How can you best show the mood of the poem through your sound?

Completion/Reflection: 5 minutes

Reflection Questions: Did adding sound effects to your poems make you feel differently about poetry? How?

Now that you know about mood in creative writing, what is something you'd like to write about to show how you feel about it?

Extensions:

Remember that bit of writing you did at the beginning of the lesson that was all about the scene outside your window? Well, take a look at it again – that's a rough draft that can be polished into a new poem! Try writing a poem from your rough draft, and adding a soundscape the same way you did with the poem you chose here.

If you really love the idea of working with foley, you can learn more by watching this film of radio sound effects from 1938

<https://youtu.be/hZ43UC5tIOY>



Write a short script with friends, and create the foley for it. Record it for a podcast, or make a video of you performing it all.

The poems for this lesson were taken from a collection titled "The Sky Is Full of Song" Poems Selected by Lee Bennet Hopkins.

Read more poems and find ones that you can create soundscapes for, or that you really just enjoy reading for the feeling that they give you.

VOCABULARY:

- Foley
- Poem
- Mood
- (also verb, adjective)