

Incredible Color
Poetry Lesson Plan for Elementary Grades



Subject areas addressed: Creative writing

Objectives:

- Develop vocabulary that describes the individual colors in the photo and the feelings students have when they see these colors used together.
- Cultivate abstract thinking abilities by imagining what the photo represents.
- Translate their ideas about the colors and color relationships into words.
- Write a poem in the teacher's preferred format that incorporates elements from the photo.
-

Activities:

- Use this photo or another abstract photo of the teacher's choice to begin a discussion. Ask students:
 - What colors they see in the photo.
 - About names they could use to describe the colors (i.e. the yellow-orange looks like the color of flames in a bonfire).
 - To describe what they feel when they see the photo or the individual waves of color. What would it feel like to wear this art?
 - What could this be a photo of?
- Have students (depending on ability) develop a list of vocabulary words that describe the colors and feelings in the photo. Have them use the list as they write a poem about the photo.
- You may want to focus the poetry writing on a theme – what the photo represents, how it makes the writer feel, what the photo says to the audience, or the artist's inspiration when creating the art.

Procedures and Ideas:

- Begin the lesson by talking about the colors in the clothing they're wearing today. Why did they choose the colors? How do the colors make them feel? What's their favorite color? Why is _____ their favorite color?
- If you teach in a school where uniforms are required, the color conversation can revolve around why certain colors were selected for their uniforms. This may evolve into a discussion about how school colors are chosen.
- Show the photo and ask a few questions like, "What do you see in this photo?" or "What does it remind you of?" "What do you think about when you see a photo like this? Where have you seen colors that look like these?"
- Ask students how they imagine art like this could be used – fabric, wallpaper, a painted mural, bedspread, clothing, scarf, rug, etc.
- If you wish to delve into the colorations, have students work with paints in primary colors plus black and white to try to mix some of their favorite colors from the photo. Younger students may need coaching about how to do tints and shades of colors to get different tones.
- Depending on the ages and abilities of your students as well as the types of poetry you wish to have them write, you may work on developing rhymes and rhythmic patterns, haiku or diamante patterns.
- You may want to have students share their poems by reading them and/or having them posted for others to read.
- Remember that the Anthology of Poetry would love to have poems submitted for consideration in our forum for young writers. Visit www.anthologyofpoetry.com for more information, or to electronically submit individual poems.