

Most Interesting Bugs

Poetry Lesson Plan for Elementary Grades

Subject areas addressed: Language Arts, Science, and Art

Objectives:

- Develop vocabulary that expands on the subject of “bug”
- Identify the types of insects, arachnids, germs and other objects that fall into the bug category.
- Differentiate between the many definitions of bug
- Explore the attributes of bugs that are interesting to students
- Use words and a selected poetry format to convey interesting attributes of any kind of bug
- Augment the words with an illustration that visually conveys these attributes

Activities:

- Develop vocabulary list with words to describe names, parts and attributes of bugs
- Explore the definition of “bug” as a word that can mean insect, arthropod, arachnid and illness. With older students look at expanded definitions and usage such as enthusiast (shutterbug), virus, germ, secret microphone, Volkswagen and the slang usage – to annoy someone.
- Create poems (in haiku, diamante or your preferred structure) that employ vocabulary and theme.
- Have students create artwork to visually convey the theme(s) of their poem

Procedure:

Start this lesson with a group session inviting students to share their thoughts on what bugs are. If students need inspiration, show a few illustrations or photos of insects, spiders, germs and even a VW Beetle. Ask students for words that describe bugs and write them on a board. Have students supply the spelling of the words if they are able.

To tie in science learning, you can have students differentiate & categorize bugs as insects (6 legs and 3-part body (head, thorax and abdomen) and arachnids (8 legs, 2-part body). You can explore the concept of bug as a contagious disease and teach methods for avoiding the spread of bugs (hand-washing, use of tissues, not touching eyes and nose).

Depending on the ages and abilities of the 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. Remind students that they are telling us in their poem about what makes the bug *interesting*.

When poems are completed move students to the illustration phase of this lesson, using your preferred media.

Students will enjoy sharing 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.