

Now what?

Poetry Lesson Plan for Senior High Grades



Subject areas addressed: Creative writing, a bit of anatomy, and life lessons of dealing with success and failure.

Objectives:

- Students will write a poem that conveys the feelings of the skateboarder at the moment in time either one of these photos was taken.
- Write a succinct (5 words or fewer) title that encapsulates the emotion of the photo.
- Create the poem in the teacher's preferred style.

Activities:

- Project the photo onto a screen or make copies for the students to view.
- Ask, "What do you think is going through the mind of the skateboarder in each of these photos?"
- Changing perspectives, ask students to write brief descriptions of what the skateboarder is feeling in his or her mind, heart, stomach, legs/feet and hands/arms when the photo was snapped.
- Have students write a poem that captures these internal feelings and external reactions – from the point of view of the athlete.

Procedures and Ideas:

- Note that the photo on the left is of a skateboarder who is successfully navigating (so far). On the right, the skateboarder has become separated from the board and may be in peril. Talk with students about the thin line that sometimes separates a great experience from a terrible one.
- Students who are athletes and skateboarders may intimately know the feelings that underlie the action in each photo. If they were the athlete's coach or parent, what would be going through their minds as they watched the person on the left and the one on the right?

- Challenge students to capture the action and movement shown in the photos within their poem. If there are students in class who have done this, let them describe how it felt. Alternately, ask students who have had fabulous successes in an athletic endeavor, or a miserable failure, describe how it feels to his or her classmates.
- Consider adding a twist to the poetry writing assignment by asking writers to include the athlete's point of view, 60 seconds *after* the photo was taken.
- 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.