

LESSON PLAN: "A PERHAPS POEM"

CREATED BY GOWRI KONESWARAN

OBJECTIVE: To learn how to manipulate syntax to reveal undiscovered meaning in their own poetry.

<p><u>KEY TERMS:</u></p>	<p>Syntax - The study of an author's specific use of phrases, clauses, and sentence patterns.</p>	
<p><u>STANDARDS:</u></p>	<p>Virginia 9.1, 9.3 – 12.3 F, 9.4 A, C-M, 10.4 D, 9.6 – 10.6 A E, 9.6 B, D, E, H, 10.6 C, F, 12.7 A</p>	<p>Common Core</p> <p><i>Reading</i> Grades 6-8: 1, 2, 4-6 Grades 9-12: 1, 2, 4</p> <p><i>Writing</i> Grades 6-8: 3.b-d, 4, 5 Grades 9-12: 3.a-d, 4, 5</p> <p><i>Speaking and Listening</i> Grades 6-8: 1.b-d Grades 9-12: 1.c-d</p> <p><i>Language Standards</i> Grades 6-8: 3, 4.a, 5 Grades 9-12: 3, 5</p>

<p><u>INTRODUCTION:</u></p>	<p>Explain: "Syntax refers to word order, and the way in which it works with grammatical structures. As we are used to hearing things in certain orders, the effect of breaking with normal syntax is to draw attention to what is being said and the way it is said." (poetryarchive.org)</p>
<p><u>STEP ONE:</u></p>	<p>Share the following two poems and have students discuss how each author's use of word placement enhances the readers'/listeners' understanding of the poem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Spring is like a perhaps hand</i> e.e cummings • "Sonnet" Bernadette Mayer
<p><u>STEP TWO:</u></p>	<p>Have students individually manipulate the syntax in the following lines. Then share with the group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The rain is falling atop my head</i> • <i>We worry much more than we should</i> • <i>Don't push me; I'm close to the edge</i> • <i>Dive every day for the chance you might fly</i>
<p><u>STEP THREE:</u></p>	<p>Now It's Time To Write!</p> <p><i>* Keep in mind this is not the end of the workshop. Leave a few minutes for the step four or assign it as homework they can bring back and share during the next workshop.</i></p> <p>Use the following prompt or select another from the prompt list. Instruct students to not concern themselves with syntax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gandhi quote from speech:</i> <i>"...these may be the last words of my life..."</i>
<p><u>STEP FOUR:</u></p>	<p>Instruct students to go back and use the lines/phrases from their free write as 'magnetic poetry.'</p> <p>Have fun and be creative!</p>

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

“Spring is like a perhaps hand”

by e.e cummings

Spring is like a perhaps hand
(which comes carefully
out of Nowhere)arranging
a window, into which people look(while
people stare
arranging and changing placing
carefully there a strange
thing and a known thing here)and

changing everything carefully

spring is like a perhaps
Hand in a window
(carefully to
and fro moving New and
Old things,while
people stare carefully
moving a perhaps
fraction of flower here placing
an inch of air there)and

without breaking anything

s“Sonnet”

by Bernadette Mayer

name address date

I cannot remember
an eye for an eye
then and there my

this is
your se
cond ch
ance to

h i s t o r y
r e p e a t s
i t s s e l f

and a tooth
for a tooth
is a tooth: