

# LESSON PLAN: "DEAR ME, FROM ME"

**OBJECTIVE:** To make students cognizant of the language that they use when attempting to convey a specific tone.

<p><b>KEY TERMS:</b></p>	<p><b>Tone</b> – Refers to an attitude a writer takes toward a subject.  <b>Imagery</b> – Vivid descriptive language that appeals to the senses.  <b>Diction</b> - Choice and use of words in speech or writing.  <b>Anaphora</b> – Repetition for effect—the use of the same word or phrase at the beginning of several successive clauses, sentences, lines, or verses, usually for emphasis or rhetorical effect.</p>	
<p><b>STANDARDS:</b></p>	<p><b>Virginia</b>            9.1 C, 10.1 D, 9.4 A, 9.4 H, 10.4 H,            11.4 E, 9.7-12.7 E</p>	<p><b>Common Core</b></p> <p><i>Reading</i>            Grades 6-8: 2, 4, 6            Grades 9-12: 2, 4, 5, 7</p> <p><i>Writing</i>            Grades 6-8: 3.b-d, 4, 5            Grades 9-12: 3.a-d, 4, 5</p> <p><i>Language Standards</i>            Grades 6-8: 3, 5            Grades 9-12: 3, 5</p>

YOUTH PROGRAMS



<p><u>INTRODUCTION:</u></p>	<p>Watch and read Joseph Green's "<a href="#">Dear Me.</a>"</p> <p>Say: Notice the variations in the poet's tone. The tone ranges from sarcastic to humorous to another one to another one, all tones varying based on the situation he describes. Identify the other tones he conveys throughout the poem.</p> <p>The poet uses vivid images and descriptive language to convey each of these tones. Identify the specific words he uses to convey each tone.</p>
<p><u>STEP ONE:</u></p>	<p>Brainstorm a list of decisions that you have made in the past from which you have grown and learned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Make sure to have students write down both what the decisions were and what they have learned from them.</i></li> </ul> <p>Reflecting on these decisions, what would your current self say to your past self as you were making these decisions?</p>
<p><u>STEP TWO:</u></p>	<p>Using the information from step one, begin your poem with "Dear Me..." Write a letter to your younger self from the perspective of the older, wiser person you now are. Like Joseph Green, choose your diction carefully to reflect the tone which you wish to convey.</p> <p>Write for 15 to 20 minutes, then share.</p>

# YOUTH PROGRAMS



## ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### “Dear Me” by Joseph Green

in a dream  
I saw the adolescent version  
of myself  
standing against a wall  
at a middle school dance  
appearing nervous  
with our head down  
he seemed wanting if not needing  
of some advice  
I pulled out a napkin  
composed a letter  
a literal self-help manual  
slipped it into my own prepubescent hand  
looked down and read

dear me,  
dance  
though you will not be good at it until your  
early 20's  
bare witness to how  
solar systems are created  
within the orbits of thighs  
how stars always burn out  
yet seem to shine on  
as you two step through universes  
do not forget to breathe  
if she approaches  
steps fall where they may  
if it was meant to be  
it will  
if not

big dipper - a supernova  
you will discover painfully

the wonder behind dancing  
like love  
is not solely predicated  
on the idea that another  
has to be there with you  
you are often doing dancing  
and loving  
alone  
but don't you ever stop

dear best friend an imaginary turtle could  
ever have,

pick a trade, a hobby  
anything; not just only art  
an actual profession maybe  
as defined at the very least as having  
a salary  
I don't care if you like it  
learn car fixing  
building building  
it doesn't matter  
I'm hungry  
and while poetry is feeding my soul  
the rest of me is famished

dear future obsessive compulsive,  
you have an addictive personality  
do not try drugs  
you're going to like them  
aaaaaaa lot

they will cause you to forget  
to lose things  
most of which the universe will never see  
fit

to give you a second chance with  
all of which will break your heart

dear would be knight in shining armor,  
there are monsters under your father's  
bed  
those video tapes and magazines are not  
manuals  
only the wrong kind of women will want  
to be treated that way yes  
there are wrong kinds of women  
you will have hand in creating some  
WARNING!!!  
the women labeled broken-on-arrival  
cannot be saved  
just loved and accepted  
as you will one day hope to be

joseph,  
put down the blades  
lower the heat in the shower  
pens are not tourniquets  
paper a poor band-aid  
it will be years before poetry  
will attempt to yellow sun  
red cape save you  
stop it now  
your soul will heal before those scars do

dear four eyed oracle,  
some wounds will not heal magically with  
mothers kiss  
won't make sense for years to come  
this is just a writing exercise  
no time for it all  
merely trying to make amends  
for dreams that'll one day dissipate into a  
deafening cacophony  
of self apologies  
if I could actually give life as a manuscript  
the instructions would simply read  
change only the parts where you hurt  
people

everything else is miracle

besides what's the worst  
that could happen  
you grow up to be me  
a shattered but mending  
(sometimes unemployed)  
literary freestyle specialist  
with a vampire's thirst  
for the universe's lifeblood

just know  
I have loved you  
all along

Sincerely

Joseph LMS Green