

“Poetic Voice and Image” Example Lesson (Day Two)

Open with the reading of “Sleeping in the Forest” by poet Mary Oliver (or other chosen Pulitzer Prize winning poet).

Presentation of conceptual approaches in art making, non-objectivity, and abstraction. Review the previous day’s discussion of the approach artist Andy Goldsworthy uses as exemplified in the video “Rivers and Tides”. Identify similarities and dissimilarities in the visual approach of Goldsworthy and the writing approach used by Pulitzer Prize winning poet Mary Oliver to depict visual elements.

Introduction of associational list making and “free-writing” as valid avenues into generating ideas from which to begin when composing written work. The students will be encouraged to recall direct experience with nature and natural elements which they have had as well as to the poetry read from Oliver’s work and the work featured in the Goldsworthy video. Each student will be encouraged to use these methods as an approach to generating ideas for the concept of an original poem.

The universality of art principles of design in creative process is presented with examples. Photo examples of other students’ completed work and differing approaches of professionals will be discussed.

STANDARDS: College and Career Readiness Achievement Standards for Reading - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas #7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.*

Grades 11-12 Reading Standards for Literature - Craft and Structure #4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (Include Shakespeare as well as other authors.)

Materials for a 5-10 day workshop: Wet media; watercolors variety of colored inks or simply black if that is all that is available. One or 2 sizes of wet media brushes (and dip pens if on hand); Varied sizes of wet media brushes: black writing pens; , colored pencils if available variety of papers that will withstand wet media and some that tear well ie: bristol/watercolor paper/specialty papers at least 11x18”, scraps of the same; sulphite paper at least 11x14”; basic classroom lined writing paper - notebook size. Glue sticks and Elmer’s Glue All. For a class of 12 students the cost could be \$180.00 or less than depending on available classroom supplies. The found natural materials collected by the students would be free. Cost \$.00.

Length of residency is 5 – 10 days; 1-1 ½ hours per day depending on hosting institution goals and age of students. Can be adapted to a short term one or two day workshop format.