

Poetry in Motion

In this Activity: Students will listen to a poem and act out/mime with their bodies what they hear.

Literacy: Poetry

Why?: Embodiment of a poem and a look at how kinesthetic and body awareness can help promote young people's understanding of the material being presented to them.

Educational Benefits:

- Embodiment of a poem
- Feel the movement and rhythm of a poem in the student's bodies

Activity Length: 20-30 minutes

Ages: First Grade - Fifth Grade

(How)

PREPARATION:

-> Pick a poem relating to subject matter you are working with or something that the class has presented an interest in.

->This could include poems of different Greek Myths, animal based poems, or poems written in a certain style.

->These poems can be a long or short. If you pick a short poem, I suggest you pick more than one to make this activity last a little longer and provide additional, and potentially different, experiences for your students.

INTRODUCTION: The teacher will need to introduce this activity to the students- so the students know that they will need to act out, with their bodies, what is being said in the poem

-> Have the class stand in a circle.

-> Read the poem out loud and let the students hear the words of the piece

-> Now read the poem again, but this time have every student act out, with their bodies*, what is being said.

-> This activity should be silent. Only the teachers voice reading the poem should be heard

->But giggling is totally acceptable (shows the students are having a good time with their movements)

-> *Students should use their bodies to interpret the words of the poem.

- Ex: "I remember I put on my socks, I remember I put on my shoes."

- Have students mime putting on socks and over exaggerate what it means to remember something

-> Once you have finished the second reading of the poem, process with the students by asking questions about the experience:

- “How felt being a part of the poem?”
- “What part did you like the best and why?”
- “Was it hard to portray a _____ (sock, shoe, clothespin, etc.) Why or why not?”

Modification :

- > Split them into groups.
- > Have each group pick or write a poem.
- > Have the students pick one person to read the poem out loud and have the other members act it out.