

Lesson plan for: English, Karen, *Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between The Lines)*. New York, Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2004

Grade Ranges: K-4

SYNOPSIS:

Students will view the video of *Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between the Lines)*. It is a book of poetry in which six San Francisco children share their observations about the events of one day, from their arrival in school to their walks home. Teacher will discuss the class response to these poems as well as student's individual reactions to the similar situations. Class will also discuss the visual settings for the poems. Cooperatively, they will create a graphic organizer for each poet and then, individually, write a poem about one of their experiences and draw a self-portrait to illustrate their poem.

KEYWORDS:

Golden Gate Bridge, monitor, journals, tattletellin', excuse-maker, announce, Louisiana,

BODY:

1. Show the video of a guest reading *Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between the Lines)*.
2. Discuss the key words to ensure comprehension of the poems.
3. With the full class, on the chalk board, create a graphic organizer establishing the names of the six poets. Continue the organizer using descriptive words for each poet and what each wrote about.
4. Examine the illustrations and discuss how they help the reader know the poets.
5. Teach the children about blank verse, citing examples from the poems and explaining that it can be used to tell a story as well as the common narrative form.
6. Have each student choose one of the poets work to reread and then describe the poet in her/his own words.
7. Assemble small cooperative groups with each poet as the focus of a group. Have the students share their descriptions within the group looking for both unique terms and common terms.
8. Have each student write a poem about her/himself in school.
9. Have each student draw a self-portrait to accompany the poem.

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will listen to a reader attentively and responsively whether in person on a video.
- Students will show an understanding of the poets and their individuality.
- Students will show an understanding of using a literary form other than narrative to tell a story.
- Students will show an understanding of using visual settings for literary work.

STANDARDS:

CT

Language Arts Standard

Content Standard 1 Reading and Responding:

Students will describe the thoughts, opinions and questions that arise as they read, view or listen to a text and use relevant information from the text to summarize the content. Students will use what they know to identify or infer important characters, settings, themes, events, ideas, relationships or details within a work.

2. Producing Text:

Students will produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.

Visual Arts, Content Standard Connections:

Students will make connections between the visual arts, other disciplines and daily life.

NJ

Language Arts and Literacy

Standard 3.1:

All Students Will Speak For A Variety Of Real Purposes And Audiences.

Standard 3.2 (writing)

All students will write in clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for different audiences and purposes.

Standard 3.4 (Listening)

All students will listen actively to information from a variety of sources in a variety of situations.

NY

English Language Arts

Standard 1

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding.

Standard 2

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for literary response and expression.

Standard 3

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for critical analysis and evaluation.

Standard 4

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for social interaction.

The Arts**Standard 3.1**

Students will make works of art that explore different kinds of subject matter, topics, themes, and metaphors.

Standard 3.3

Students will reflect on, interpret, and evaluate works of art, using the language of art criticism. . . . Students will compare the ways in which a variety of ideas, themes, and concepts are expressed through the visual arts with the ways they are expressed in other disciplines.

NYC: E. Literature

E5a Respond to non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and drama using interpretive and critical processes.

E5b Produce work in at least one genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

Technology and Materials Needed:

- Video player and tape of recorded reading of *Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between The Lines)*.
- Copies of *Speak to Me (And I Will Listen Between The Lines)*.
- Paper and pencils for writing a personal poem.
- Drawing materials to create a self-portrait to accompany the personal poem.

Assessment:

1. Check for comprehension of the story by asking questions and creating the graphic organizer.
2. Check for application by examining each student's poem and self-portrait.