

LESSON PLAN TITLE: Ramadan Traditions

Writer-in-Residence: Hannah Webster (translation by Wafaa Mustafa)

Grade Level: 3rd-8th

Model Works Used: *from* Ramadan by Khaled Mattawa

Literary Learning objective(s): Students will be able to identify personification in a poem and write a poem that includes their own personifications.

Themes: Family Traditions, Faith, Personification, Understanding Cultural Differences

MDE/SEL Standards: 4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone, Self-Awareness (Self Confidence, Self Efficacy)

Materials Needed: Attached Worksheet with discussion questions, prewriting, poem, and writing space

Pre-Discussion

Personification: A figure of speech in which a thing (or an idea) is given the attributes or qualities of a human being

Here are some examples of personification.

Lightning danced across the sky.

The ocean opened its mouth to yawn.

Can you think of others?

Model Poem Discussion

Read Ramadan, by Khaled Mattawa, then answer the following questions.

- What are three examples of personification from the poem?
- Why do you think the moon is like a princess during Ramadan?
- What do the moon and a princess have in common?

Prewriting

Mattawa is writing about celebrating Ramadan in Libya. How is Ramadan celebrated differently in America? In Yemen? (Ask your family!)

What is a Ramadan tradition specific to your family?

What are your favorite foods to break fast with? Describe them VIVIDLY using all 5 senses (make us hungry!)

Writing Prompt

Write your own *Ramadan* poem that includes some of your family traditions and a personification of at least one of the following: *night, hunger, thirst, morning, moon, suhoor, iftar*

Share / Reflect

Send your poem to Ms. Webster and Ms. Wafaa at hannah.r.webster@gmail.com. We will share your Ramadan poems with Khaled Mattawa.

- What is one example of personification from your poem?
- What line in your poem are you proudest of?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself or your family through writing this poem?

Supplemental Materials

Ramadan

BY KHALED MATTAWA

My mother forgets to feed her animals
because it's only fair.
She rushes to them when
she hears hoarse roosters crowing
and billy goats butting
over a last straw.

This month the moon becomes a princess.
The stars fan her,
Jupiter pours cups of wine,
Mars sings melancholy *mawals*.
Bearded men holding prayer beads
and yellow booklets stare at her

and point aching fingers at her waist.

In our house we break a fast
with dates from Huun
and glasses of buttermilk.
Then on to bowls of lamb soup
flavored with mint, trays
of stuffed grape leaves,
spiced fava beans drenched
in olive oil and lemon juice.
And that is only the beginning.

The spirits of Johnny Walker and gin
hide in the trunks of white Peugeots.
In the nightclubs of my city, waiters
serve only non-alcoholic beer
and belly dancers cover themselves.

Father of sixteen children, our neighbor
visits bringing two kilos of baklava.
He washes them down with a dozen
demitasses of sweet sage tea.
Before dawn he runs to one
of his two wives, both named Salma,
and loves her hurriedly,
his hands barely touching a breast.

Check/Highlight all that apply

- Text by a contemporary/diverse author
- Translated text
- Visual Thinking Strategies
- Close reading or other analysis
- At least one step of the writing process
- Planning & Reflection Strategy
- New device, concept or theme
- Social-Emotional Learning
 - Self-Management
 - Social Awareness
 - Relationship Skills
 - Responsible-Decision Making



☐ Self-Awareness

Celebrating the power of youth voice since 1995.

www.insideoutdetroit.org

Personification: A figure of speech in which a thing (or an idea) is given the attributes or qualities of a human being

What are three examples of *Personification* from the poem:

Why do you think the moon is like a princess during Ramadan? What do the moon and a princess have in common?

Mattawa is writing about celebrating Ramadan in Libya. How is Ramadan celebrated differently in America? In Yemen? (ask your family!)

What is a Ramadan tradition specific to your family?

What are your favorite foods to break fast with? Describe them VIVIDLY using all 5 senses (make us hungry!)



Celebrating the power of youth voice since 1995.

www.insideoutdetroit.org