

Workshop Title: The Scent of Memories

Level: Novice Writers, **Developing Writers**, Experienced Writers

Duration: **1.5 hrs**

(15 mins) Check in:

- What scent would you say describes how you have felt this week? Why?
 - Example: I would say the smell of grass describes my mood because I've felt grounded and I've grown from some new experiences.

(15 mins) Resource Building:

- Draw a picture of 3 of your favorite places. Add as much detail as possible. It doesn't have to be a masterpiece! This is a personal map.
 - After drawing, add next to each drawing:
 - What memories do you have of the place(s)?
 - What scents does the place smell of?

(20 mins) Example poem:

- "Smell is the Last Memory to Go" by Fatimah Asghar (attached)
 - Asghar believes the tree to smell of both Jasmine and citrus
 - The scent of Jasmine is light and soft and the smell is citrus loud and powerful.
 - How do you feel both scents relate to the memories the author has of her mother?
 - Do you believe the tree actually smelled of two scents or her neighborhood made her think of her mother and the scents?
 - Why do you think Fatimah repeated certain phrases and words throughout the poem?
 - What is the mood at the beginning of the poem? What about at the end?

City Wide Poets

A Program of InsideOut Literary Arts

(20 mins) Prompt:

- Choose one of your favorite places and write about. Be sure to include the smells of the place and the memories you have associated with it.

OR

- Write a guide for outsiders visiting your block for a day. Try repeating a few words/lines.
 - What do you see?
 - Who comes and goes?
 - What do the homes and yards look like?
 - What sounds do you think of?
 - What are the scents that you smell?
 - What are the unspoken rules?

*In your writing, be sure to use:

-similes: comparing two things using the words “like” or “as”

Example: My macaroni is like the sun.

-metaphors: comparing two things NOT using the words “like” or “as”

Example: My macaroni is the sun.

-imagery: what you can see, hear, smell, touch, taste:

Example: My macaroni stretched across my taste buds and melted in my mouth, it became the sun.

Online Sharing Options

- (10 mins) allow 2 - 3 students to share their work
- (10 mins) create share-groups of 3 or 4 students. Students should share work among themselves privately (email, google drive, text, etc.)
- (10 mins) allow all students to share 1 - 3 lines from their writing. Speed is key!

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EXAMPLE WORK

“Smell is the Last Memory to Go” by Fatimah Asghar

on my block, a gate

on my block, a tree smelling

of citrus & jasmine that knocks
me back into the arms of my dead

mother. i ask Ross *how can a tree
be both jasmine & orange*, on my block

my neighbors put up gates & stare
don't like to share, on my block

a tree I can't see, but can smell
a tree that can't be both but is

on my block, my mother's skirt twirls
& all i smell is her ghost, perfume

on my block, a fallen orange
smashed into sidewalk

its blood pulped on asphalt on my
block, Jordan hands me a jasmine

by the time i get home
all its petals are gone