LESSON PLAN TITLE: My Tree is...

Writer-in-Residence: Kyle Hunt
Grade Level: 2nd - 4th
Model Works Used: When Grandma Gives You A Lemon Tree by Jamie L. B. Deenihan and Lorraine Rocha
Literary Learning objective(s): Students will be able to explore sensory detail and descriptive use of language, write for an audience and add detail to previous writing.
Themes: Imagination, nature, gifts, metaphor
MDE/SEL Standards: Stress management, self-motivation, communicating clearly, considering the well-being of self and others, knowledge of language / reading closely, key ideas and details
Materials Needed: Worksheet, pencil, computer, internet

Opening Activity:

I want you to use your mind to create an image of a pencil and hold it in your hand. Next, I want you to hold it up in the air and draw a circle. Now, turn the circle into a smiley face. Now, use your hand as an eraser and erase the smiley face!

Next, I want you to draw a house. Put people in the house. Put a chimney on the house. Make smoke come out of the chimney. Draw some clouds and a sun. Add whatever else you want to the picture, and then erase this one too.

Next, I want you to draw a tree. A HUGE tree, as big as the room! Let it grow larger and larger with each stroke of your pencil!

Once you've finished drawing your tree, I want you to do a trick with your drawing. I'll tell you what to do: take your tree and shrink it smaller with your hands. Squeeeeeeze the tree to make it small. Tie an imaginary string to your tree and fly it around the room like a kite! Be careful not to knock anything over with it!

Finally, when you're done flying your tree like a kite, I want you to set your tree aside for later!

Pre-Discussion:

You might think an imaginary tree is strange. Why would we fly it like a kite? Why would we draw it in the sky? Well, we are using our imaginations in a powerful way. We are exercising our imaginations to make them stronger!

Sometimes, writers use their imaginations in powerful ways. One way is to inspire other people, or to make others happy.

Let's read a story that started out in someone's imagination. This is a story about a tree and giving gifts. It's called, *When Grandma Gives You A Lemon Tree.* It's written by Jamie L. B. Deenihan and illustrated by Lorraine Rocha. Watch the video to hear me read the story!

Model Poem Discussion

https://youtu.be/A4lHJZhBvUw

Prewriting

Next we're going to add to our trees by writing about them. First, write down what kind of tree you have. Is it an apple tree? A pear tree? Maybe it's a new kind of tree no one has ever heard of? What kind of tree is it?

1.

Next, imagine that your tree can hold all sorts of magical things. What can your tree hold? What is in its branches? It doesn't have to just be fruit. It could be anything!

2.

Writing Prompt

Now that you've written a little about your tree. Let's take it one step further and write a poem! I want you to add more to your tree using the prompt below. Get imaginative with it! Maybe your tree is 500 feet tall! What else is 500 feet tall? What can you compare your tree to? Maybe it's a mile wide. What else is that big? Can you compare it to something else? Be as imaginative as you can here!

Title: _____

My _____ tree is as tall as _____.

Its branches stretch to _____.

Its trunk is as strong as _____.

My tree gives people _____.

I call my tree _____.

Share / Reflect

When you're done writing, consider giving your poem to someone else as a gift! If you really want to keep it, that's okay too, but imagine how happy you could make someone if you give it as a gift! Your writing is beautiful, and they would love to have it!

Supplemental Materials

Video

Check/Highlight all that apply

❏ **Text by a contemporary/diverse author**
❏ Translated text
❏ Visual Thinking Strategies
❏ Close reading or other analysis
❏ **A 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**

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