

LESSON PLAN TITLE: Tomorrow Will Be

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Grade Level: 2nd - 8th

Model Works Used: Last Dawn by Octavio Paz

Literary Learning objective(s): Students will be able to learn new vocabulary. Analyze a text in order to extrapolate key information needed to understand the text. Make lists and utilize lists in imaginative writing.

Themes: Dreams, the future

MDE/SEL Standards: Optimism, considering the well being of self and others, key ideas and details, knowledge of language/reading closely, production and distribution of writing.

Materials Needed: Paper and pencil, crayons or markers (optional)

Opening Activity

I want you to close your eyes for 10-15 seconds and try to remember three things you've dreamed about. This could all be from your dream last night, or from three separate dreams long ago. So go ahead, close your eyes for about 10-15 seconds and think of three things you've dreamed about.

Now, quickly, so you don't forget them, write down your three things. Next, I want you to draw a picture including the three things you wrote down! When you're done, share the picture with someone else. Maybe a friend or family member?

Pre-Discussion

After a dream, what happens? You wake up! And guess what, it's a new day. It's tomorrow! I want you to think about tomorrow.

What will tomorrow be like? Maybe you know something you will do tomorrow, but you don't *really* know what it will be like. Things might happen that you don't expect, right? Tomorrow might be completely different from today. What do you hope tomorrow will be like? What do you hope happens? How do you want to feel tomorrow? I want you to imagine the best day ever. How can you make it a good day for others?

Model Poem Discussion

Now we're going to read a poem by Octavio Paz, a Mexican poet who was born in 1914. The poem is titled "Last Dawn." Do you know what dawn is? Dawn is the first moment in the morning right when the sun starts to come up. It's a beautiful part of the day!

Last Dawn

by Octavio Paz

Your hair is lost in the forest,
your feet touching mine.
Asleep you are bigger than the night,
but your dream fits within this room.

How much we are who are so little!
Outside a taxi passes
with its load of ghosts.
The river that runs by
 is always
running back.

Will tomorrow be another day?

Now, let's think about the first line - "*your hair lost in the forest*" - what does that mean? How is the person's hair lost in the forest?

The next line says, "*your feet touching mine.*" Why would their feet be touching someone else but their hair is also lost in the forest? How is this possible?

I think I know! If we look at the next line, we find out that the person is asleep. So, maybe they are *dreaming* of a forest? Could that be it? The poet is awake while the other person is dreaming.

Read the poem again. This time, remember that the person is dreaming. Why are there ghosts? What about the poet's question at the end? What does he mean by, "will tomorrow be another day?"

Prewriting

Remember I had you think about tomorrow? I want us to do that again, but this time, imagine you could bring your dreams with you after sleep! What would tomorrow be like now? Make a list of some things you would bring back from your dreams.

I would bring back:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Writing Prompt

Now that you have a list, let's use it to write a poem! Again, we are imagining what tomorrow would be like if we could bring our dreams with us. What would we see? What would happen? How would we feel? Use the prompt below to write your poem:

Title: _____

When I wake up, tomorrow will be filled with

and _____.

I will see lots of _____

and _____.

What if I _____?

Maybe I will _____.

Tomorrow will be _____.

Share / Reflect

When you're finished, share the poem with someone special to you. After they read it, ask them what they would bring back from their dreams. What would their tomorrow be like?

Supplemental Materials

Video: Tomorrow Will Be

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