

LESSON PLAN TITLE: Odes for the People We Can't See Right Now

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Grade Level: 2nd-8th

Model Works Used: “Ode to My Socks” by Pablo Neruda

Literary Learning objective(s): Students will be able to identify the form of an ode and to use comparisons in their writing.

Themes: love, gifts, missing people

MDE/SEL Standards:

- social awareness (respect for others)
- 2nd grade writing standard: Recall information from experience or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- 3rd grade writing standard: With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

Materials Needed: paper, pencil, object in your house

Opening Activity

Let's go on a treasure hunt!

Find three things in your house that were gifts.

Who gave them to you?

Is one your favorite?

Pre-Discussion

Gifts are one way that people tell each other they care about them. Writing is also a way to show someone that we care. Today we are going to write an ode. An ode is a poem about something or someone we think is important.

Model Poem Discussion

Let's look at one writer who wrote about a thing he loved. The writer is Pablo Neruda, a poet from Chile in South America.

“Ode to My Socks”

Maru Mori brought me
a pair
of socks
which she knitted herself
with her sheepherder's hands,
two socks as soft
as rabbits.
I slipped my feet

into them
as though into
two
cases
knitted
with threads of
twilight
and goatskin.

Pablo has more to say about the socks, but we'll stop reading the poem here.

What was important to Pablo in this poem?

Why did Pablo care about his socks?

How do you think Pablo feels about Maru Mori?

Do you think this poem is an ode to Maru Mori, as well as to the socks?

When Pablo says the socks are soft like rabbits, he is making a comparison. Rabbits are not only soft, but they are cute, warm, and fuzzy. By comparing the socks to rabbits, I can imagine that his socks might be cute, warm, and fuzzy, too.

Pablo also makes a comparison when he says the socks are like cases made out of twilight and goatskin. What does that mean? How are socks like twilight? How are socks like goatskin?

Prewriting

This poem makes me think of a good friend who knit me a scarf. Even though I can't see her right now, if I wear the scarf, it feels like getting a hug from my friend.

Is there a friend or family member who you miss who you can't see right now?

Maybe they gave you one of the gifts you found earlier. If not, go on a second scavenger hunt! Find one thing that that makes you think of a person you miss. It does not have to be a gift. It could be a game or toy you always play with a friend or it could be a photograph of a family member.

Writing Prompt

Write a poem about the thing you found. This poem will be an ode about the object you found AND an ode for the person you miss. Start by describing the thing using comparisons, like Pablo Neruda. Make three comparisons. Then, explain how this object reminds you of the person you miss. You can use the worksheet below.



Share / Reflect

When you are done writing, share your poem with the person you miss! You can call them on the phone or send them the poem in the mail or with email.

Did writing help you feel closer to the person you miss?

Title: Ode to _____

(thing that reminds you of someone)

1. _____ is like _____
(thing)

because _____

2. _____ is like _____
(thing)

because _____

3. _____ is like _____
(thing)

because _____

4. _____ reminds me of _____
(thing) (person)

because _____

5. _____ is like _____
(person)

because _____

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