

## LESSON PLAN TITLE: Inside My Pencil

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**Writer-in-Residence:** Peter Markus

**Grade Level:** 2nd-8th grade

**Model Works Used:** Inside My Pencil

**Literary Learning objective(s):** Students will be able to look and to imagine that they are seeing things that only they can see. The power of the make-believe.

**Theme:** To see and make visible (and true) what only they can imagine.

**MDE/SEL Standards:** See below

**Materials Needed:** Pencils (all pencils can be magic!) paper, video (if possible)

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### Opening Activity:

A pencil is more than just a pencil. A pencil is a telescope. A pencil is a window. A pencil is a portal through which you can find yourself standing on the other side. Where anything is possible. Where nothing is as it seems.

Stand up with your pencil in your hand hand. Repeat after me:

*My pencil is a magic pencil. When I look inside my pencil, I can see anything I can imagine, anything I can dream up, and nobody is going to not believe me.*

### Pre-Discussion

Remember, students, anything is possible, if you believe that this is true then when you bring your pencil up to your eye you'll be able to see—able to imagine—things only you might see.

Remember that when we begin to write we'll want to work on stretching out each sentence beyond the noun itself by giving it action (by animating it with our verbs)

### Model Poem Discussion

Inside my pencil I saw....

A man running down a dusty road until all that was left was dust. A tiger and a lion going to outer space. They had paper wings. The tiger didn't have a friend to play with so

that's why the lion came and they became friends forever living in the same house. I saw walking roses and an alien walking without breathing. I saw an eight-headed fish in a fish bowl walking down the sidewalk and a man with one eye and a magic phone talking to a pony. I saw a girl named Lydia who looked a lot like me and whatever I did she did and we were stuck inside my pencil.

Now write your own! Remember to hold your pencil up and look inside it for as long as it takes for your imagination to kick in.

Inside my pencil I saw.....(write at least 5 descriptive lines)

**Share / Reflect:**

What was it like to do something you've never done before?

What it was like to see something that maybe isn't actually true but it's okay to make believe, to make things up, to play pretend?

Who had a hard time saying that they saw something when maybe you really didn't see anything?

It's okay, like with anything else, you have to practice at playing pretend, you have to practice to get better and more comfortable making things up.

**Supplemental Materials: Pencils (all pencils can be magic!) paper, video (if possible)**

**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