



Essential Words: LTAB Online 2020

Lesson plans and writing prompts for teens



Poem of Omission

by Kyle Hunt

DURATION: 1.5 hours

GRADE LEVEL: Middle School

WRITING LEVEL: Developing Writers

FOCUS: odes, new words

EXAMPLE TEXT

[Ode to the Flute](#)
by Ross Gay

Check in | 15 minutes

Pick a word and write it down. Now, when reading that word, what's the first word that comes to mind? Now, write that word down.

Keep writing down your word associations as quickly as you can. Don't think hard about it! Just write down the first thing that comes to mind. Do this until you have at least 20 words. Keep this list handy.

Resource Building | 15 minutes

Write the word **MUSIC** and **SKY** on a piece of paper in two columns with a line separating them.

MUSIC

SKY

Starting with **MUSIC**, make a list of the first 5, simple words that come to mind when you think of music. Then, make a list for **SKY**. By the end, you should have 12 words, including **MUSIC** and **SKY**.

TIP | Keep it simple!

Example: If your word was WATER instead of MUSIC, then you might write *wet, ocean, rain*, etc.



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Close Reading | 20 minutes

READ | [Ode to the Flute by Ross Gay](#)

DEFINITION | **ODE**: a poem written in praise of a person, place, or thing.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What is happening in this poem?
- How is this an ode to a flute?
- Is it an ode to anything else?
- Halfway through the poem, what does the poet mean by *nothing is explained*? Is it significant that this happens halfway through the poem? Why or why not?
- What is the *small final song* at the end?
- Is it just a song from the flute, or something else?
- How does the absence of punctuation affect the poem?

Writing Prompt | 20 minutes

Write an ode to MUSIC or SKY without using any of the 5 words from your previous lists. Try to omit your go-to words to push your writing to new, exciting places!

BONUS | **Omit punctuation.** In what ways does this change the way you write (or read) your poem?

OR Return to your first list of 20+ words. Pick the word that excites you most and **write an ode about this word.** There are no rules. Anything goes. It can be as long or short as you want, with or without punctuation.

Share Out | 15 minutes



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Ode to the Flute by Ross Gay

A man sings
by opening his
mouth a man
sings by opening
his lungs by
turning himself into air
a flute can
be made of a man
nothing is explained
a flute lays
on its side
and prays a wind
might enter it
and make of it
at least
a small final song

[Ode to the Flute by Ross Gay, New York Times Magazine](#)