

Objective

By the end of this lesson, the student will have a deeper understanding of Sujata Bhatt's poem "Search for My Tongue," exploring themes of identity, language, and cultural conflict. The student will be able to analyze the poem's structure, imagery, and emotional impact, and articulate their insights through discussion and creative expression.

Materials and Prep

- Notebook and pen for notes and reflections
- Printed copy of "Search for My Tongue" (if needed, can be read online)
- Art supplies (colored pencils, markers, or paints) for creative activities
- Access to a quiet space for reading and discussion
- Basic understanding of poetic devices (metaphor, simile, imagery) will be helpful

Activities

• Reading and Reflection:

The student will read "Search for My Tongue" aloud, focusing on the rhythm and emotion of the poem. After reading, they will write a short reflection on their initial thoughts and feelings about the poem's themes of language and identity.

• Imagery Exploration:

The student will create a visual representation of the poem's imagery. They can draw or paint scenes that represent key moments or feelings from the poem, allowing them to express their interpretation artistically.

• Group Discussion:

If possible, the student can invite a family member or friend to discuss the poem with them. They will share their reflections and engage in a conversation about how language shapes identity and the experience of cultural duality.

• Creative Writing:

The student will write a short poem or a personal narrative that reflects their own experiences with language and identity. They can incorporate metaphors or imagery inspired by Bhatt's poem.

Talking Points

- "What do you think Bhatt is trying to say about the relationship between language and identity?"
- "How does the imagery of the 'tongue' serve as a metaphor in the poem?"
- "Can you relate to the feeling of losing a language or a part of your culture? Share your thoughts!"
- "What emotions do you feel when you read the lines about the tongue growing back? Why do you think Bhatt chose that imagery?"
- "How does the structure of the poem contribute to its meaning? Notice how it shifts between languages."
- "What role does memory play in the poem? How does it affect the speaker's identity?"
- "Discuss how Bhatt uses sound and rhythm in the poem. How does it enhance the message?"

- "Why do you think Bhatt chose to write part of the poem in Gujarati? What effect does it have?"
- "How does the poem reflect the experience of being bilingual or multilingual?"
- "What does the phrase 'losing your tongue' mean to you? Can it apply to other aspects of life?"
- "How does the poem challenge the idea of a single identity?"
- "What can we learn from Bhatt's experience about embracing our cultural backgrounds?"
- "How does the poem make you feel about your own language and culture?"
- "In what ways can language be a source of both connection and conflict?"
- "What do you think the poem says about the importance of maintaining our languages?"
- "How does this poem inspire you to explore your own identity through language?"