

Painting with Words: An Art & Poetry Adventure

Materials Needed:

- Paper (plain and construction paper or cardstock)
- Drawing/coloring supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils, paints - whatever is available)
- Optional: Magazines for collage, scissors, glue
- A piece of art to look at (a postcard, print, book illustration, or even an interesting object) OR materials to create a quick, simple drawing/painting
- Pencil or pen

Lesson Activities:

1. Warm-up: What Do You See & Feel? (5-10 mins)

Let's look closely at our piece of art (or the quick drawing you made). What colors do you see? What shapes? What does the picture make you feel? Happy? Calm? Mysterious? Excited? Just chat about it! There are no wrong answers. Think about how artists use colors and lines like writers use words.

2. What is Poetry? (5 mins)

Poetry is like painting with words! It uses language in special ways to create pictures and feelings in the reader's mind. Poets often use fewer words than story writers, but they choose them very carefully.

3. Poet's Tools: Simile & Metaphor (10 mins)

Poets have cool tools! Two favorites are:

- **Simile:** Comparing two different things using 'like' or 'as'. Example: *The clouds were fluffy like cotton candy.* The sun is **as** yellow **as** a lemon.
- **Metaphor:** Comparing two different things by saying one thing **is** the other (without using 'like' or 'as'). Example: *The classroom was a zoo!* His smile **is** sunshine.

Can you think of a simile or metaphor for something in the artwork we looked at?

4. Art Inspiration Brainstorm (10 mins)

Look back at the artwork. Write down a list of words and short phrases about it. Think about:

- **Sights:** Colors, shapes, objects (e.g., 'bright blue', 'sharp edges', 'round moon')
- **Feelings:** Emotions it evokes (e.g., 'peaceful', 'exciting', 'lonely')
- **Sounds (Imagined):** What might you hear? (e.g., 'soft whisper', 'loud crash')
- **Smells/Tastes (Imagined):** What might you smell or taste? (e.g., 'salty air', 'sweet berries')
- **Similes/Metaphors:** Try creating some comparisons! (e.g., 'sky like velvet', 'the tree is a soldier')

5. Write Your Sensory Poem (15-20 mins)

Now, use your brainstorm list to write a short poem (maybe 4-8 lines) about the artwork. Try to include:

- At least one simile or metaphor.
- Words that describe senses (sight, sound, feeling, smell, taste).
- Words that capture the feeling of the artwork.

Don't worry about rhyming unless you want to! Focus on clear images and feelings. Just get your ideas down.

6. Illustrate Your Poem (15-20 mins)

Read your poem aloud. Now, create a simple illustration or decoration for it! You could:

- Draw or paint a picture that matches your poem.
- Create a colorful border around your written poem.
- Make a small collage that fits the mood.

Write out your final poem neatly on paper, perhaps incorporating your artwork around or beside it.

7. Share & Reflect (5 mins)

Read your finished poem aloud! How does your illustration connect to your words? Which part was more fun – the writing or the drawing? What was tricky? What did you learn about how art and poetry can work together?