

# Challenging Happiness

by Chalese Potts

**Grade level:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Time frame:** 45 minutes

**Objective:** Ode writing prompt

**Prior knowledge and skills:** Basic writing knowledge of figurative language

**Required materials:** Pen/pencil, paper

## Sequence of activities:

### Let's Visualize (5 mins):

Have students sit in a comfortable place with their writing supplies and close their eyes. Make a suggestion that crisscross apple sauce is a good place to start if the students ask how they should sit. Have the students practice a breathing technique. I say, "Smell the cupcake (breathing in), Blow out the candle (breath out)."

Ask the students to visualize what makes them feel happiest. What do you see/hear, where are you, what does that feeling remind you of?

### Brain storm (2 mins):

Ask students to make a note of the thoughts and feelings they had. Restate the questions: What do you see/hear, where are you, what does that feeling remind you of?

Present the writing prompt: *If you were in charge of the whole world, what would you do to make the world a happier place?*

### Write the poem (30 mins):

1. Ask students to name their own town as the title of the poem.
2. For the first line of the poem students will describe their plans:  
I (insert name) have decided to make some changes to make the world a happier place we will now \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in blank)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (describe why)
4. How does doing your suggested change help people feel the way you do when you are the most happy?
5. Happiness is \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in blank using metaphors)
6. Write the following: "If I were to change the world, I would make it a happier place ..."

7. For \_\_\_\_\_ (who do you want to change it for? Add one name or a list of names)
8. Write the following “If I were in charge of the world ...”
9. \_\_\_\_\_ ( would be the answer )
10. We call it \_\_\_\_\_ (insert town name)

**Share out (8 mins):**

Have students share poem with the group.

**Poem example:**

**Bikini Bottom FrediRICO**

I Brianna Green have decided to make some changes to make the world a happier place  
we will now only have cake for breakfast

This law to make everyone start the day on a good note.

You'll be happy for a cool minute.

Happiness is like getting money.

Like opening Christmas presents.

Like getting a complement.

Like achieving your goals.

If I were to change the world, I would make it a happier place

For

My family

My mom

Dad

Sister and friends.

If I were in charge of the world

Cake would be the answer

We call it Bikini Bottom FrediRICO.