

Poems Inspired by Tupac Shakur

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Grade Level: 6th-8th

Time frame: Two 45-minute sessions

Facilitator Prep:

[Watch Hip Hop & Shakespeare by Akala](#) to understand the reciprocal influence of both genres of writing. Assess if this is a topic that you can teach and facilitate by asking yourself: how does my life experience and music preference influence this lesson?

Literary Model:

- [A Rose That Grew From Concrete by Tupac Shakur](#)
- [Dear Mama by Tupac Shakur](#)

Session One:

Community Check-In (10 Minutes)

- Engage students by sharing their names, pronouns, personal success, or challenge they are going through
 - Sidenote: each answer can be as silly or serious as the student feels comfortable
 - Introducing *snapping in solidarity*: snap if you relate to what a student said. Explain that this is a great way to let students know *I am holding space for you*. Invite them to do the same.

Watch and Discuss [Dear Mama by Tupac Shakur](#) (15 Minutes)

- Are there images that caught your attention? Why?
- Are there certain lyrics you remember? Why?

Read and Discuss [A Rose That Grew From Concrete by Tupac Shakur](#) (15 Minutes)

- What does that rose symbolize in this poem?
- What about the concrete?

Session Two:

Community Check-In (10 Minutes)

- Engage students by sharing their names, pronouns, personal success, or challenge they are going through
 - Sidenote: each answer can be as silly or serious as the student feels comfortable

Introducing *snapping in solidarity*:

1. *Snap* if you relate to what a student said.
2. Explain that this is a great way to let students know *I am holding space for you*.
 - a. Invite them to do the same.

Review [Dear Mama](#) x [A Rose That Grew From Concrete](#) (10 Minutes)

Classroom Reflection (10 Minutes)

- How are these works similar?
- How are these works different?

Write Letter Poem using the following prompts (15 Minutes)

- *Dear person who gives me strength,*
- *To the person who teaches me everything,*

Share Poems (10 Minutes)

- Allow students to share a poem
 - Equitable sharing strategies to share poetry:
 - Have all students read poems at same time
 - Offer to read poem for students
- Listeners: encourage snaps and warm comments after the students has read their poem