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