

Writing in the Community Lesson Plan

Fall 2017

Lisa O'Neill

Theme: Writing a eulogy poem

Pedagogical Goals:

- Introduce literary tools such as repetition and metaphor/simile
- Talk about eulogy as a writing and poetic form
- Use reflection in poetic writing

Activity	Est.time
<p><i>I used this lesson on the first day of class as a way to introduce poetry and poetic techniques and to engage personal material, allowing students an opportunity to reflect</i></p> <p>Introduce myself, background and teaching, the course, Writing the Community program.</p> <p>On the board, define poem together. (What does a poem do? What are our expectations of a poem? What do you need to make a poem? How are poems like or unlike other kinds of writing?)</p> <p>Define eulogy. (A way to praise and honor the dead, a way to remember what made a person/place/thing special and unique)</p>	10 mins.
<p>Look at handout with “Definitions for the Day”: Eulogy, Repetition, Anaphora, Metaphor, Simile, Sensory Description</p> <p>Read through definitions and examples</p>	5 mins
<p>Read at Sherman Alexie’s poem “Eulogy”</p> <p>Discuss students’ observations</p> <p>Read portions and break apart using techniques</p> <p><i>What makes it a eulogy? What is a eulogy for? Is it only for his mother?</i> (This allows us to talk about how he is not just eulogizing his mother but his native language which died with her and other elders. He is also in a way eulogizing his native culture and eulogizing the loss of language and ritual that cannot be recovered)</p>	15 mins

Read my sample poem “My Journal Was A Hiding Place” Attached and use it to discuss both literary tools and how eulogies can also be about things we have lost and places that either we no longer have access to or that do not exist or exist in the same way.

Writing Exercise: **Write** a eulogy for a person, place or thing.

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Use repetition and at least one metaphor/simile

Questions to consider:

What made that person/place/thing unique?

What was your relationship to that person/place/thing?

Why does it matter to you that they/it is gone?

How is the world lacking from its absence?

How will that person/place/thing be remembered? What are ways you can keep the memory alive?

If you feel stuck, you can draw a t-graph first at the top of the page and brainstorm people/places/things you have lost or no longer have access to and then pick the one that feels most immediate or urgent or the one that is calling to you at this moment

Person	Place	Thing

I circulated as they were writing to help them with ideas or to clarify.

Time to share what they have written aloud. I also always offer to read someone's if they would prefer me to share what they've written.

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