

& PROJECT

Rare Air / Aire Raro

Session 3 of 5

RELATIONSHIP POETRY

Students will think about the people in their life and create vivid descriptions of an experience they attribute to them with relationship poems.

YOU WILL NEED

- Paper
- Pencils
- A copy or copies of the poem “Hairs / Pelitos” by Sandra Cisneros from the book *The House on Mango Street*
- “Relationship Poem Form” Handout

STEP 1 (20 MINUTES)

BEFORE YOU START:

Attached are example relationship poems. It is ideal for you to create your own example relationship poems so that you can talk more about the experiences that inspired them.

How to Begin

Read “Hair” by Sandra Cisneros. Discuss: “Many people consider Sandra Cisneros’ book *The House on Mango Street* poetry. Why? How is it different than other poetry? In her

book, she describes lots of the people and places in her neighborhood using vivid details that focus on one aspect of their relationship (like hair). Today, we'll practice doing that."

STEP 2 (15 MINUTES)

Discussing the Form

Display the "Relationship Poem Form" handout and show students the generic example. Then, show the specific example. Discuss: "What do you notice? How are they different? What makes you picture something clearly? Today, you're going to create brief, vivid images for the reader of your poetry. We are not writing long memoirs/personal narratives that describe entire experiences, but brief series of vivid details that explode off the page! " Show the last example as a final piece for students to draw from.

STEP 3 (30 MINUTES)

Relationship Poems

Now, students work on their own! Remind them to include our poetic devices (simile, metaphor, personification, vivid detail) and think about relationships other than just mom, dad, and brother. What about your relationship with the clerk at the corner store, or the lunch monitor, or your neighbor?

When you are thinking of the experience, don't tell us everything. Pick just a few, important images or moments from your memory.

STEP 4 (10 MINUTES)

Reflection

Give students a chance to share out one of their poems either as a class, or through a pair and share.