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Poems of Praise: Writing Odes

GRADES 1–2

TYPE
POETRYCOMMITMENT
1 SESSION: 60
MINUTES

Over the course of this lesson, students learn to define an ode as a “poem of praise” and critically analyze a mentor text. Most importantly, students have the opportunity to move through several stages of the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, and revising.

SESSION:

YOU WILL NEED

- Poems of Praise — Handout
- Poems of Praise — Slideshow
- (Optional) A copy of the book *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* by Derrick Barnes, also available to view on Youtube through this [Bookmarks read aloud](#).
- Method of projection

STEP 1 (10 MINUTES)

Purpose of the Day – Writing Odes

Explain to students that they will be writing odes. Odes are poems of praise. We write odes to something, or someone, that we like or love.

If possible, share a favorite example ode with students. Here’s one that was used in the original workshop:

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes, also available to view on [Youtube](#). Then, share some student examples with your class: “An Ode to Cookies” and “Oh, Kitty.” Ask students what they notice about each ode you share. You’ll want to look for a variety of responses, but students will hopefully notice some of the following:

- Often the ode is written as if the poet is speaking to the subject, “Oh flower, you are....”
- The ode uses lots of descriptive language
- The poem doesn’t have to rhyme
- There is no set length

If students do not list these particular points, ask questions around them.

STEP 2 (10 MINUTES)

Community Ode

If possible, project or share the ode graphic organizer. Students will vote on an object they’d like to write an ode about. Then prompt students to contribute responses for the graphic organizer as you (or a willing volunteer!) scribes. After the organizer is complete, ask students to identify the strongest words/phrases, and circle them. From there, facilitate the writing of an ode on chart paper, taking suggestions from the class.

STEP 3 (20 MINUTES)

Writing

Students select a topic for their own odes and complete the graphic organizer before beginning to write their poem. If students finish early, they should read their ode aloud to a partner. Partners should listen for descriptive language in each other's poems. Ask students to revise their odes by adding 2 to 3 details.

STEP 4 (15 MINUTES)

Share Out

Students share their odes if they would like to!