Emily Dickinson: Person, Poetry, & Place

Emily Dickinson's Poetry: The Senses create a Vision

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Grade 4 Lesson

BRIEF LESSON SUMMARY

Emily Dickinson's poetry was integral to her environment. While her themes are universal, readers can get a unique understanding of her poetry by understanding where and how she lived. Her poetry appeals to the senses with her use of precise language. Hearing her poetry helps to illuminate her words and deepen our understanding of her work. At the end of this unit, students will be able to explain how Emily Dickinson's life influenced the themes in her poetry. They will also be able to create a digital representation of one of Emily Dickinson's poems using the program Photostory3 with appropriate images and music. Students will be able to mark a poem for words that evoke the senses.

This unit of study will take at least 6 days of whole class work with time needed by individual students to record their poetry reading.

Day 1 – Instruction about Emily Dickinson's life
Day 2 - Deep reading of poetry and identify language that evokes the senses
Day 3 - Instruction on how to create a Photostory
Day 4 – Collect images for Photostory
Day 5 – Create Photostory
Day 6 - Celebrate students work and reflection

IDENTIFY DESIRED RESULTS

BIG IDEAS:

- How can knowledge of the poet's home and environment help to understand her poetry?
- Poets use their senses to create meaning with words: sound, sight, smell, touch, taste.
- Language can create images in our mind.
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ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:

- Emily Dickinson often used knowledge of her environment to express her ideas.
- Emily Dickinson's poetry invokes the senses to create meaning (pictures in our head).
- Visual images can show our understanding of ideas and concepts.

DETERMINE ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE

- Poems marked by students : uses of senses
- Completed Photostory with appropriate images showing understanding of use of senses in the poetry, thoughtful narration and music reflecting the mood of the poem.
- Reflection form at end of project recording aspects of Emily Dickinson's environment.

PLAN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND INSTRUCTION

- Show Photostory of Emily Dickinson's environment : "The Homestead" including the gardens and "The Evergreens" with a brief biography. Include things that Emily would have seen, heard, etc. Students will learn about Emily's life and what influenced her poetry.

- Have students share poems in a group and then analyze selected poems for evidence of the senses. Students will work together to build understanding of her poems and to recognize evidence of her life in her poetry. Listed below are the poems from The Poems of Emily Dickinson edited by Franklin selected for the students to analyze.

FR 32	FR 260	FR 359	FR 737	FR 1096
FR 101	FR 314	FR 379	FR 796	FR1320
FR 113	FR 318	FR 621	FR 846	
FR 204	FR 321	FR 656	FR 983	

- Instruct students how to create a Photostory. Each student creates a PhotoStory3 of a selected poem choosing images that the poems evoke, reading the poem with expression, and choosing music that complements the poem.

- Each student completes a Reflection Form of their experience showing understanding of poetry and the part the poet's experiences plays in their poetry writing.

LESSONS

Day 1: The Life of Emily Dickinson (see attached script)

- **Students will view a Photostory of the life of Emily Dickinson**
- **Students will answer questions about her life**
- **Students will begin reading selections of ED's poetry (see attached booklet**

Day 2: Emily Dickinson's Poetry

- **Divide students into small groups, preferably with an adult in each group (Teacher, Media Specialist, etc.)**
- **Students will read through the poems in the booklet and mark them for evidence of the use of senses and ideas from ED's life.**
- **Students will choose the poem that they would like to work with.**

Day 3: Photostory of Poems

- **Students will view an example of an ED poem as a Photostory.**
- **Teacher will instruct students how to create a Photostory (see resource list)**
- **Teacher will show example of a storyboard**
- **Students will begin creating a storyboard of the poem they have chosen indicating the types of images they need and how the poem will be read. (See attached Storyboard)**

Day 4: Creating a Photostory (in computer lab/or with access to laptops)

- **Students will begin searching for appropriate images at websites with copyright free images (see resource list)**
- **Students will be instructed on how to save images for use.**
- **Create Photostory**

Day 5: Adding Voice (Because this part of the process requires a quiet space, students should work a few at a time recording their voice.)

- **Students record their reading of their selected poem in the Photostory.**
- **Students create music in the program that reflects the mood of their chosen poem.**

Day 6: Celebration and Reflection

- **As a whole group, students share their Photostories with each other.**
- **Students complete Reflection Form (see attached)**

Teachers grade each student's Photostory using a rubric (see attached)

TEACHER COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS

This project was a collaborative unit between the media specialist and the 4th grade classroom teacher. The students were very engaged and excited to be transforming a poem using technology. They were not at all apprehensive about digging into Emily Dickinson's poetry searching for meaning. They often read and analyze poetry, but rarely do they learn about the poets, themselves. I think that learning about the life of Emily Dickinson helped them to relate to the poems and make them more meaningful. The final projects were exciting and the students enjoyed sharing them with their parents as well as their classmates.

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Materials and Resources

Books

Franklin, R. W., ed. The Poems of Emily Dickinson, Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA. 1999.

Longsworth, Polly. The World of Emily Dickinson. W. W. Norton & Company, 1997.

Other Sources

Booklet of Emily Dickinson poems (see attached page)

Emily Dickinson Homestead **http:**//www.**emilydickinson**museum.org/

How to make a Photostory **http://www.jakesonline.org/photostory.pdf**

Reflection Form (see attached page)

Storyboard for Photostory (see attached page)

Text for Photostory of Emily Dickinson's life (see attached page)

Websites for copyright free images http://www.classroomclipart.com/
http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/
http://www.panoramio.com/
http://www.pics4learning.com/
http://www.jakesonline.org/blankslides.htm