

Kick-Off for Theme: Purposeful Collaboration

Purpose: Each student will begin to understand how their individual, group, and collective efforts can create something greater than the parts. By working together on a common goal, students will have a visual representation of what Purposeful Collaboration looks like. This poem will stay up on the wall as a reminder of who we are and what we can accomplish when we work together.

Explanation: This kick-off activity will be the very first thing students will do in my class. Not only will it introduce students to the cycle theme, it will segue into poetry, our first cycle of study.

Materials:

- Paper or cardstock strips the same width and length--enough for each student to have 2-3, plus 2-3 more per table
- Markers (teacher may want to assign a color to each table group)
- Scrap paper and a writing utensil for drafting for each student
- Universal Ideas and Senses starters cut up into strips and put in a cup--one per table
- Scissors and Tape for each table

Procedure

1. Students will be assigned to tables of four to six. This can be done beforehand with name cards, or randomly by giving students cards as they enter the room with their table numbers. These will be their table groups for the Poetry cycle of study.
2. Students are asked to write a short poem about themselves. This can be done on scrap paper. If students are having trouble, they can use the Universal Ideas sheet or the Senses starters. (Teacher may want to cut these up and put them in a cup so students can draw them out randomly.) Students will draft their poems on paper. Give 10 minutes for this. Play music to encourage students to work quietly.
3. Students will choose 1-3 lines from their poems and write them on the big sentence strips with marker. When the music ends, instruct all students to do this if they haven't already.
4. As a table group, the students will decide how to construct their poem. They may cut up lines, rearrange the order, or compose a new line together in order to make their poem flow. When the table group stanza is finished, one student will tape it to the wall.
5. When all groups have their poems taped to the wall, as a class we will decide the order of the stanzas. As a class, we will create a title for our poem. If there is time, the class can also create an ending couplet.

AOP Questions

1. What did you notice about working alone, versus working with your table group or working together as a class?
2. What is necessary for a purposeful collaboration?
3. What surprised you about this activity?
4. What's your favorite line from the poem?

Universal Ideas

Addiction
Alienation
Ambition
Anarchy
Apathy
Anger
Atonement
Beauty
Belonging
Betrayal
Brotherhood
Brutality
Change
Chaos
Class
Community
Competition
Conformity
Corruption
Courage
Culture
Curiosity
Death
Desire
Desperation
Empathy
Destruction
Determination
Disappointment
Duty
Failure
Family

Freedom
Greed
Grief
Growth
Happiness
Hate
Health
Honor
Hope
Identity
Imagination
Individuality
Innocence
Jealousy
Justice
Knowledge
Longing
Loss
Love
Loyalty
Lust
Madness
Materialism
Mortality
Obedience
Obsession
Order
Oppression
Patriotism
Peace
Perseverance
Poverty
Power
Pride

Prejudice
Progress
Purity
Race
Redemption
Responsibility
Regret
Revenge
Sacrifice
Savagery
Secrecy
Sexism
Sexuality
Stability
Struggle
Success
Survival
Time
Tradition
Trust
Violence
War
Work

Senses Starters

Looking out the window of a moving car	Being someplace I've never been before	My favorite cereal or breakfast when I was a kid
The inside of my favorite place	The feel of a warm hand in mine	City noises
The face of someone I love	Shoes that are too tight or giving me blisters	Hearing a dog bark in the distance
My favorite outfit	Sitting in an uncomfortable chair	My favorite dessert
My room	Falling asleep when I'm trying to stay awake	My favorite color
A place where I feel safe	Trying to fall asleep when I can't	My favorite animal
A sunrise	My proudest moment	My favorite song
The night sky	Water--floating, swimming, wading, watching	Being far from home
A place that reminds me of where I've been	Birds singing	Being tired at the end of the day, but it's a good tired
Rainfall	Watching the clouds moving across the sky	Giving the perfect gift
The smell of my favorite food that a family member makes	Petting a puppy or kitten	Getting the perfect gift
The best smell in the world	Walking from a hot day into an overly air conditioned inside place	Blowing out the candles on my birthday cake
The smell of my house	Shivering	And that was the moment when I realized...
What the world smells like after a rainstorm	Happy tears	Eating a fruit or vegetable straight from the garden
Drinking water on a hot day	A time when someone made it all better	The wind blowing in my face
Feeling warm and cozy when it's cold outside	When I get a text late at night	
Drinking hot chocolate on a winter's day	The moment I wake up	