

Community-Word Project- TAP Lesson Plan

IDEAS: Understanding memory through storytelling and quilting.

Lesson 1

Theme of Lesson: Expressing Individual Memory in Community

School/Grade/CT(s): 1st Grade

Teaching artists: Michael Feldman and Noelle Lorraine Williams

Inquiry Question

How can we use memory activities to teach students how to write and artistically render stories about their own lives?

Opening Ritual

Objective: To center and focus the students and get them to start thinking about how they remember.

Activity Name and Brief Description:

Getting Grounded and Listening to Ourselves

(5 minutes)

-Begin by shaking shekere (African percussion instrument)

- We will ask the students to be seated in a circle, close their eyes, and listen to their breath. We will ask them to think about their morning, what they ate for breakfast, were they in a rush or on time, how they got to school, who they talked to, what they learned, etc.

- We ask the students to stand up. Passing the shekere around the room, each student will make a motion that represents how thinking about the morning makes them feel. Were they tired? Energized? Hungry? Each member of the class and the teachers will mirror the motion.

-Lead students in repeating, "I have an important story to share with you."

Intro Activity:

Objective: To demonstrate how Americans use quilts to remember important things and make useful old things by creating art and warmth for their families.

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Experiencing the Quilt and Making Memory
(5 minutes)**

Pass the quilt around. Share with students how people used old clothes and pieces of beautiful things to create quilts.

Main Exercise:

Objective: To activate students memories by having them think about something they have lost or found.

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Writing about your items you lost
(8 minutes)**

The students return to their tables. In their notebooks, students will be prompted to write in response to the following. One co-teacher will read each question out loud and allow students to write. The other co-teacher will walk around the classroom and monitor progress and encourage:

- What is an item that you lost or found?
- What does it look like?
- How did you feel when you had it?
- How did you feel when you lost it?

Reflection:

Objective: To reflect by sharing memories.

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Sharing memories and connecting
(5 minutes)**

The students will partner with another student and share their memory of what they lost or found.

We will ask a few students to share with the class what they learned about the other person.

Closing Ritual

Objective: Chant

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Will lead students in closing chant.
(5 mins)**

I have a voice.

My voice is powerful.

My voice can change the world.

Multiple Intelligences Addressed: Highlight the intelligences used throughout this lesson plan.

Multiple intelligences

Logical-Mathematical; Visual/Spatial; Linguistic; Bodily-Kinesthetic; Musical, Interpersonal