

Lesson Plan: Using Imagery

Goals: To help students understand the concept of imagery and how it is used in a poem.

Duration: 1 hour

Materials: Paper and pen.

Procedure:

1. Explain the concept of imagery: language that tells us about what we experience with the senses; see, hear, feel, taste and smell.
2. Read poem, "The Crescent Moon" by Mei Yao Ch'en. This poem is full of images and sensory experience.
3. Think of a time when you saw, heard, felt, tasted, or smelled something amazing. Describe the experience using many of the senses. For example: the night moon is often seen as an experience of sight (shines over the corner of the house, spirits fly, high grass), but the author adds sound (dog's howl, murmur), and feeling (creatures stir, wind blows).

Another example:

Ponderosa Pine

I love to smell vanilla
on the gold-rusted bark
of the Ponderosa Pine. The needles
whisper secrets in a language
I cannot understand and the puzzle bark
my fingers run along is silent.
A seed falls from a cone,
invisibly. Tiny seedlings
push through
dry, hard earth.

3. Things to remember: use small moments from your own experience
focus in and freeze the moment (take a mental picture)
use as many senses as you can
4. Write your own poem full of imagery. Break into lines.

Vocabulary: crescent, spirits, creatures, murmur

The Crescent Moon

The crescent moon shines
over the corner of my house.
My neighbor's dogs howl.
The family is in trouble.
In the middle of the night
spirits fly about and strange creatures stir.
A murmur runs over the high grass
although no wind blows.

--Mei Yao Ch'en