

ELOISE GREENFIELD: POETRY TO STIMULATE IMAGINATION AND INSPIRE WRITING



YOUR TEACHING ARTIST: DANIELLE DANIEL

Actress, storyteller, author and educator, Danielle encourages self-discovery, social interaction and free expression. Her career includes various theater and storytelling programs which inspire audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Danielle is an international performer, presenting storytelling and theater projects in the Twin Cities, nation-wide, and in Africa, England, Germany and Italy.

Danielle received her BA at the University of Minnesota and is the author of a children's book titled *The Ghost of Old Man Willie*. She has also written five plays, one of which was performed at the 2015 Fringe Festival. She has received the COMPAS 2011 Jum Dusso Artist Award, the MN State Arts Fellowship, and the Jerome Fellowship.

ARTISTIC MODELS (INCLUDED IN THIS LESSON:

Poems by Eloise Greenfield:

Children love Eloise Greenfield's poetry. Her children books are filled with wonderful, playful characters and images--encouraging students to use their own rhythmic style, and make their own beat and rhythm. She has a special way of writing about 'everyday life' that stimulates the imagination. Greenfield's literary works empower students to draw from their own experiences, and create their own poetry. When children draw from our own experiences -- they feel validated.

LEARNING GOALS:

Students will use works by African American poet Eloise Greenfield as inspiration to improve oral reading comprehension and writing skills, and to help foster an appreciation for African American Poetry

MEASURING ACHIEVEMENT:

You will be able to measure student achievement based on:

- Completion of a poem written in the style of Eloise Greenfield.
- The ability to effectively recite poetry taken from different works by Greenfield.
- Making connections to poetry and how they can utilize their own experiences to create.

GRADE LEVEL(S): This lesson plan is designed for students from Kindergarten to the 5th grade.



COMPAS PRISM PROGRAM

Teaching Artist-designed lesson plans inspired by the work of local and national African American artists

LESSON ACTIVITIES

(COMPLETE THESE ACTIVITIES IN THE ORDER LISTED TO ACHIEVE CLASSROOM LEARNING GOALS)

- Day 1 (50-60 minutes) Introduce Eloise Greenfield to the class, show copies of the book and video.
- The class reads “Lessie” poem in “Honey I love and other poems”. Discuss what is happening in the poem. This includes feelings, actions, and the ending. Discuss the descriptive language the author uses to explain how fast “Lessie” runs.
- Students will then write a poem about things they love and share the poem with class or a group. This can be a sport, or activity they like to do (Riding a bike, going up hills and down hills as fast as they can, racing their friend to the bottom etc.).
- Day 2 (45-60 minutes) Discuss members of a family and how there are different types of families. This will help children who do not fit into a traditional family structure feel included.
- Students will then read and discuss poems from “Brothers and Sister”, making a list of things they like and don’t like about family (who is funny, tall or short, special places etc.).
- Students will then write a family poem. For younger students or those who have challenges writing or staying focused, use a fill in the blank “I am poem”.
- Day 3 (45-60 minutes): Students select a poem of choice (they can work in groups or solo).
- Allow time for students to practice reciting the poem they have selected, students then present their poem(s) the class.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS LESSON:

- Show students a photo or poster of Eloise Greenfield and have students read a short bio about her aloud to the class.
- Show video of Eloise Greenfield. To help students understand and appreciate the rhythm of Greenfield's poetry, show a youtube video of her performing the "Grandma's Rap".
- Show students copies of Eloise Greenfield books.

POEM/SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Smart board or screen
- Access to the internet
- *Honey, I Love* by Eloise Greenfield
- *Brothers and Sisters* by Eloise Greenfield
- *In the Land of Words* by Eloise Greenfield

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS ADDRESSED IN THIS LESSON PLAN:

English Language Arts K-5:

3.6.3.3-5.6.3.3 Write narratives and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

3.8.1.1-5.8.1.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

3.10.3.3-5.10.3.3 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

OTHER NOTES FROM YOUR COMPAS TEACHING ARTIST:

There are several extension activities that can be used from this lesson plan:

- Have students do the poetry jam with another class.
- Have students write short stories from an image in the poem they chose.
- Have students select a poem to recite in groups.
- Have students get together in groups of 5 and create at least three tableaux from one of the poems.

**WHAT COULD A COMPAS TEACHING ARTIST
HELP YOU ACHIEVE IN YOUR CLASSROOM?**

Learn more at COMPAS.org

