Found Poetry: Words RECYCLED

A Creative Writing Assignment

* Challenges students to “recycle” words and phrases in a way that is meaningful and original to them
* Aligns with Common Core Reading and Writing Standards by requiring students to analyze and explain meaning in their own work and use figurative language in an original way
* Cross-Curricular themes for Social Studies & Art Classrooms
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How-To Create a Found Poem

Step 1: Choose a topic from the list below. Circle your topic choice.
- Middle School
- Discrimination
- Education
- Bullying
- Being Heard (Your Voice)
- Images of Being a Girl or Boy
- Standing Up for Your Rights
- Hunger/Homelessness/Poverty

Step 2: Look through magazines and find words or phrases that you like and relate to your topic. Cut them out.

If you can’t find words that you are looking for, cut out letters to make the words.

Step 3: Be sure to have at least 15 words or phrases. Then, arrange them in a meaningful way to make a poem.

Step 4: Neatly, glue your words to your construction paper using your glue stick.

Step 5: Write a paragraph in response to your poem. Answer these questions in your response paragraph.
- * What is the meaning of your poem?
- * Why did you arrange the words/phrases this way?
- * What message do you want readers to take away?
Found Poetry:

EXAMPLE

WHY

SHOULD

Dream

OR

CARE

MEET

YOU

Might

actually

BE

a

beautiful

HERO
Example Response Paragraph

Name: Sam the Student
Topic: Standing Up for Your Rights
Title of Poem: Unexpected Hero

My Paragraph: My poem, “Unexpected Hero,” is about standing up for your rights and becoming an unexpected hero. It means that if we don’t stand up for what we believe in, how will we ever make a change? The line, “Choice meet opportunity” means that everyone has an opportunity to make a change; some people make the right choice to take that opportunity while others ignore it. I chose to put my words in this order because they made sense for my poem and helped get my message across to my readers. When people read my poem, I want them to hear my message: Don’t be afraid to stand up for what you believe in because you never know: you just might be an “unexpected hero.”
Found Poetry: Words

RECYCLED

My Response Paragraph

Name: ________________________________

Topic: ________________________________

Title of Poem: ________________________________

My Paragraph:

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