

Self-Portrait

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Synopsis

My curriculum unit will focus on teaching students to read and write poetry. I want the students to discover poetry for themselves through this unit. In the past when I have tried teaching poetry, I told the students what I wanted them to know about poetry. I didn't allow them to appreciate different forms of poetry and find poetry that "spoke" to them. This unit will immerse them in poetry first and then I will use what we learn together to teach them how to write poetry. Teaching students to write poetry can often be challenging because they want to be told how to do it and it seems like a scary task. Throughout the unit I will use mentor texts to help the students understand the format. As a group we will also do a poet study to see how they get their ideas for their poems. My goal for the end of this unit is for the students to publish a collection of their self-portrait poems that represent who they are. These will be published to an online website called glogster. The self-portraits can then be shared at school or accessed by their families.