Expressive Haikus

Subject Area: English Language Arts
Grade Level: Elementary School
Topics/Themes: Poetry
Duration: 90 minutes

Overview

One of the most successful female artists in 1920s Paris, Marie Laurencin created many works featuring women as the focal point. In this lesson, we will look at her artwork and create poetry to reflect on what students notice. Ekphrastic poems are works written in response to looking at a work of art. Using haikus, students will think creatively about how they portray Laurencin’s work through words.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Create ekphrastic haiku poetry.
- Write a haiku to describe their experience with a Marie Laurencin artwork.

Materials
Discussion Questions

- What do you notice in this painting?
- What words would you use to describe this artwork?

Learning Activities

1. Explain what a haiku is.
   - A short form of poetry developed in Japan.

2. Explain the rules for writing a haiku.
   - Poem must consist of three lines.
   - The first and third lines consist of five syllables. The second line consists of seven syllables.
   - Haikus often focus on themes like nature or the seasons.
   - The lines don’t have to rhyme.

3. Share a haiku written by teacher, or the example below.
   
   I am first with five.
   Then seven in the middle
   Five again to end

4. Optional step: clap and count through syllables in haiku examples.

5. Create a haiku with the class on the board about a specific topic (the weather, favorite sport, or activity)

Performance Task

1. Show students artwork by Marie Laurencin.
2. Have students write three words that come to mind when viewing the artwork.
3. Have students create haikus based on artworks by Laurencin.
4. Have students share aloud their thoughts on the artworks.
5. Have students share haikus with the class.

Related Objects


Common Core Standards

CC.1.4.3.Q Choose words and phrases for effect

CC.1.4.3.M Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events