

Central Idea Handout - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

What Is Poetry Anticipation Guide

Please fill out the following questions by circling AGREE or DISAGREE.

Please be honest. You do not need to turn this in.

	Before Poetry Lessons			After Poetry Lessons	
1	Agree	Disagree	Poetry is something I'm familiar with	Agree	Disagree
2	Agree	Disagree	Poetry is fun	Agree	Disagree
3	Agree	Disagree	Poetry is hard to understand	Agree	Disagree
4	Agree	Disagree	Poetry is difficult to write	Agree	Disagree
5	Agree	Disagree	Poetry is written by women	Agree	Disagree
6	Agree	Disagree	I know the difference between a stanza and a line	Agree	Disagree
7	Agree	Disagree	I know the difference between a simile and a metaphor	Agree	Disagree
8	Agree	Disagree	I know the difference between denotation and connotation	Agree	Disagree
9	Agree	Disagree	I know what repetition, alliteration and rhyme are	Agree	Disagree
10	Agree	Disagree	I like to write poetry	Agree	Disagree
11	Agree	Disagree	I know poetry is meant to be heard out loud	Agree	Disagree
12	Agree	Disagree	Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans have written many poems	Agree	Disagree
13	Agree	Disagree	I know Afghan American is Asian American	Agree	Disagree
14	Agree	Disagree	I know Bangladeshi American is Asian American	Agree	Disagree
15	Agree	Disagree	I know Pakistani American is Asian American	Agree	Disagree
16	Agree	Disagree	I know Indian American is Asian American	Agree	Disagree
17	Agree	Disagree	I know Sri Lankan American is Asian American	Agree	Disagree
18	Agree	Disagree	I know Marshallese American is Pacific Islander American	Agree	Disagree
19	Agree	Disagree	I know Samoan American is Pacific Islander American	Agree	Disagree
20	Agree	Disagree	I know Fijian American is Pacific Islander American	Agree	Disagree

1. Basic structure of a poem

Prose Structure:

Sentence
Paragraph

Poetry Structure:

Line
Stanza

2. In this unit we will be using the experiences and poetry of AAPI Women.

- AAPI is short for Asian American and Pacific Islander.
- We will explore how poems are used to depict various subjects.
- Poets often explore different issues, topics, and ways of thinking.
- Today we will talk about the central idea of the poem, Bad Women by Janice Mirikitani.

3. Bad Women” video

- observe in the “you are about to show.
- how Mirikitani emphasizes her words
- how she introduces her topic
- how she concludes her poem

4. Brainstorm a few things below that others would be surprised to learn about you.

5. Expectation of this Class

- We will exploring 1 or 2 poems each day in class
- Study poems as homework
- Learn how to write poems
- At the end of this unit you will write your own poem
- Keep all your classwork , homework, and handouts. They will be helpful in writing your own poem. Bring your handouts to class.
- “AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry” story contains all the poems for lecture, classwork and homework. Bring it to class everyday.

6. Poem of the Day: “Bad Women” by Janice Mirikitani. Classwork.

- Highlight their favorite lines.
- Star lines that make you think differently about the title Bad Women.
- Think about the last line, the concluding line, “Bad women can *burn*.”
What does it mean?
Is that the central idea of the poem?
Mark the lines which support the concluding line.

7. Class discussion

- What is the central idea of the poem?
- What is Janice Mirikitani conveying in her concluding line?
- Keep in mind you will need a central idea and a concluding line for your own poem.

Central Idea Homework - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Read Read Janice Mirikitani’s biography in the “AAPI Women Voice” story.
2. Read Read Shirley Geok-Lin Lim’s biography in the “AAPI Women Voice” story.
3. Read Shirley Geok-Lin Lim’s poem, “Learning to love America”.
4. **How does Shirley Geok-Lin Lim support her central idea in “Learning to love America”?**
 - Write your interpretation of the following 7 lines in the poem.
 - Write how you feel about the concluding line.

	Lines from the poem	What is your interpretation?
1	because I live in California I have eaten fresh artichokes and jacaranda bloom in April and May	Example interpretation: When you live in America, you eat what land provides you. You see what the land provides you. You become part of America.
2	because my senses have caught up with my body my breath with the air it swallows my hunger with my mouth	
3	because I walk barefoot in my house	Not wearing shoes inside a home is an Asian American tradition.
4	because I have seen his eyes redden when he is asked who he is because he answers I don't know	
5	because to have a son is to have a country because my son will bury me here because countries are in our blood and we bleed them	
6	because it is late and too late to change my mind	
7	because it is time.	What does the concluding line mean? How do you feel about this?

Central Idea Homework 2 - AAPI Women Voices: Untold Stories Through Poetry

1. Read Lehua M. Taitano’s biography in the “AAPI Women Voices” story.

2. Read Taitano’s poem, “One Kind of Hunger”.

3. Find how Taitano develops the central idea in the poem, “One Kind of Hunger”

Some background information about the poem:

(More information on “The Origin of Stories” can be found at <http://www.thestoryweb.com/seneca/>)

- The poem is Lehua Taitano’s response/re-telling of “The Origin of Stories.”
- “The Origin of Stories” is a Seneca oral story regarding the creation of story itself and its importance in passing on cultural tradition.
- “One Kind of Hunger” is a furthering of the ideology of indigenous cultural preservation practices.
- It tells the tale of an orphan boy who goes out hunting and discovers a stone that tells stories. The boy learns quickly that the emotional nourishment he receives from the stone’s stories is even more important than the physical nourishment he receives from the birds he hunts.

4. Find at least 3 lines in the poem that support the central idea of the poem. Examples are given in two lines.

5. Write how the central idea relates to your own experiences.

Line #	Lines from the poem	Information	What is your interpretation?
1	The Seneca carry stories in satchels.	* Seneca is a member of an American Indian people of what is now western New York. The Seneca were the largest of six Native American nations	
2	They are made of pounded corn and a grandmother’s throat.	"They" refers to the stories themselves.	The essence of stories comes from people sharing their thoughts, their voices, and their daily lives like pounding corn. The stories are told by grandmothers.
3	The right boy will approach the dampness of a forest with a sling, a modest twining wreath for the bodies of birds. A liquid eye.	A liquid eye refers to a slingstone.	The slingstone, an orb in motion seeking to take the life of another living creature. There must be the precision of such an eye in choosing life and death, in making decisions that affect one's family, community, and future. A liquid eye sees not in tunnel vision, but considers all aspects.
4	When ruffed from leaves, the breath of flight is dissolute.		
5	What else, the moment of weightlessness before a great plunge?		
6	In a lost place, a stone will find the boy.		

7	Give me your birds, she will say, and I will tell you a story.		
8	A stone, too, admits hunger.		
9	The boy is willing. Loses all his beaks.		
10	What necklace will his grandmother make now.		
11	The sun has given the stone a mouth. With it, she sings of what has been lost.		
12	She sings and sings and sings.		
13	The boy listens, forgets, remembers. Becomes distracted.		
14	The necklace will be heavy, impossible to wear.		Write how the central idea relates to your own experiences.