

Sense Poem

Description: Students describe a topic using words and ideas related to their senses.

Materials

- ✦ Student directions (page 119)
- ✦ Sense Poem patterns (page 120)
- ✦ Dictionary and thesaurus

Procedures for Teaching

1. Review what students know about the senses. Brainstorm and list sensory words for each sense.
2. Share with students the formats for writing sense poems. Choose one and model the process for thinking about and creating a sense poem.

I see _____

I smell _____

I hear _____

I feel _____

I taste _____

_____ looks like _____

_____ smells like _____

_____ sounds like _____

_____ feels like _____

_____ tastes like _____

3. Show students how to use resources, such as a dictionary and thesaurus, to discover descriptive or interesting words.
4. Create several sense poems as a class. Start with familiar topics such as seasons, places, and class experiences.
5. Guide students to create individual or group sense poems about topics of interest. Encourage students to consult the dictionary and thesaurus as they brainstorm vivid and interesting words to create sensory-rich images about their topic.

Teaching TIP

To help students focus on sensory language, provide copies of the Details, Details organizer (page 48). Have students write the topic of their poem at the center, then complete the organizer by filling in sensory details.

6. Have students create illustrations to go with the poems and share them with the class.
7. At a separate time, repeat steps 2–6 with the remaining sense poem pattern if needed.
8. For independent practice, have students create sense poems on their own or with a partner during center time.

Sample

Spring

I see daffodils and tulips in my neighbor's garden

I smell sweet, fresh cool air blowing across my face

I hear the chirps of newborn birds in nests above

I feel the soft touch of new grass in my yard

I taste the freshness of a spring rain on my tongue



Suggestions for Differentiated Learning

Provide More Support

- Provide a word bank that relates to the senses.
- Start with a hands-on experience and then have students write about it.
- Allow students to draw the topic, and then write about it using their senses.

Provide More Challenge

- Have students include metaphors or similes in their poems.
- Encourage students to consider the rhythm they create with their words, and to experiment with such literary devices as assonance, repetition, and alliteration.

Sense Poem

What to Do

1. Select your topic.
2. Think about words that relate to your topic.
Brainstorm adjectives, verbs, and adverbs.
3. Use the Sense Poem pattern to write your poem.
4. Use the thesaurus and dictionary for help with word choice and spelling.
5. Illustrate your poem, if desired.

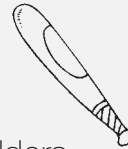
What You NEED

- ✓ Sense Poem pattern
(choose one)
- ✓ Dictionary and thesaurus
- ✓ Pencil or pen

Sample

Topic: Baseball Game

I see a wave of fans cheering their team
 I smell the butter on the popcorn
 I hear the crack of the bat
 I feel the heat of the sun on my shoulders
 I taste the spicy mustard on my hotdog



POETRY WRITING CENTER

Sense Poem Patterns

Name _____ Date _____

Sense Poem

I see _____

I smell _____

I hear _____

I feel _____

I taste _____

Name _____ Date _____

Sense Poem

_____ looks like _____

_____ smells like _____

_____ sounds like _____

_____ feels like _____

_____ tastes like _____

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Name _____ Date _____

Sense Poem

I see _____**I smell** _____**I hear** _____**I feel** _____**I taste** _____

Name _____ Date _____

Sense Poem

_____ **looks like** __________ **smells like** __________ **sounds like** __________ **feels like** __________ **tastes like** _____