

Lesson Plan #3 – ESL (for intermediate to advanced students)

Title: I CAN WRITE A POEM

Objectives: In this lesson, students will:

1. learn words that describe themselves.
2. practice language skills.
3. gain knowledge of poetic form.
4. recognize that their experiences and perceptions have value.
5. demonstrate ability to write a poem by filling in the blanks with words that they have chosen and that are meaningful to them.

Session Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials: paper, pencils, pens

Methods: Individual participation; teacher guidance

Procedure

It is important for students to recognize and understand that their experiences shape who they are and that these experiences have value and are worth sharing. The following lesson provides an opportunity not only for students to recognize that they can write a poem but that what they have to say has value and relevance.

Activity

1. Read this “sample poem” to students:

*I, Bob,
A boy, tall, funny, happy
Son of Mom
Lover of animals, sports, food
Who feels nervous
Who needs money, another vacation, less homework
Who fears spiders, heights, aliens
Who would like to see Dr. Phil, Jennifer Lopez, and Jim Carrey
Am a resident of Sesser, Illinois
Welcome you to my poem.*

2. Discuss the poem with the students. Ask these questions:
 - What kind of person is Bob?
 - What did you find most interesting about him?
 - What surprised you about him?
 - Do you think you would like Bob, or not? What is it about his poem that makes you think so?

3. Provide students with this format and explain that they are to “fill in the blanks” with words that they have carefully chosen to describe themselves.

4. Explain that students will be asked to share their poems at the end of the activity.

I, _____
(my first name)

_____, _____, _____, _____,
(four adjectives that describe me)

(Son, daughter, wife, husband, mother, father, sister, brother, friend)
of.....

Lover of.....(three things, people or ideas)

Who feels.....(up to three descriptive words)

Who needs.....(up to three descriptive words)

Who fears.....(up to three descriptive words)

Who would like to see.....(up to three people, ideas or places)

Am a resident of(city, state)

Welcome you to my poem.

Conclusion: It is important that students be encouraged to write about themselves. After all, it's a subject that they know well and in which they can be the “expert.” By choosing this format, the teacher can introduce descriptive words that students may or may have yet encountered. While the format is simple, it requires students to give some thought to selecting words that describe themselves. It is important to let students know at the beginning of this activity that they will be reading aloud their poems and thus learn from each other.

Note: This lesson is included in the workshop, *ESL New Teacher Orientation*, in the *SIPDC Catalog of Professional Development Opportunities*.