

LIVE Arts

2022/23

Magnetic to Pop Art Poetry With Cooper Skjeie

Date: April 6th

Grades: 5 & 6

Artistic Discipline:
Poetry

Overview

Step into the vivid words of Saskatchewan poet Cooper Skjeie. Join him as he takes your classes on a poetic exploration of the natural world. He will teach your classes how to write from the perspective of objects outside of themselves and explore the life that exists in the world all around us.

Artist Biography

Cooper Skjeie (/shay/) is a poet, educator, and consultant of mixed settler and Métis ancestry. An MFA candidate at the UBC School of Creative Writing, he is a graduate Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program and an alumnus of the Banff Centre's Emerging Writers' Intensive and Sage Hill Poetry Course. Winner of the 2020 Saskatoon Indigenous Poets Society Slam Invitational and third-place winner in the Short Grain Contest for Poetry, Cooper has been shortlisted for numerous awards and contests, including most recently The Malahat Review Open Season Awards and The Fiddlehead's Ralph Gustafson Prize. His work has been supported by Canada Council for the Arts and SK-Arts, and his poems appear in Grain Magazine, PRISM international, and Prairie Fire, among others. He lives in Saskatoon.



Materials

- Laptops or BYO Magnetic Poetry Kit Handouts
- Pencils • Glue sticks • Coloured cardstock paper
- Coloured tissue paper • Laminating pouches
- Mini-fridge • Magnetic poetry kit

Classroom Setup

- SmartBoard access
- Whiteboard and dry-erase markers
- Student desks arranged into pods
- A space reserved for a mini-fridge

Curriculum Outcomes and Indicators

Grade 5

Creative/Productive

CP 5.7 Create visual art works that express ideas about, and draw inspiration from, pop culture

c. Collaborate with other students to decide how to document the inquiry process and share resulting products.

Creative/Productive

CP 5.7 Create visual art works that express ideas about, and draw inspiration from, pop culture

d. Use research, including guided Internet searches, as part of the inquiry process.

Cultural/Historical

CH 5.3 Analyze and describe how arts and pop culture expressions convey information about the time and place in which they were created

c. Explain how knowing more about the context in which an arts expression was created can help in understanding the work.

Grade 6

Creative/Productive

CP 6.10 Create visual art works that express ideas about identity and how it is influenced (e.g., factors such as pop culture, cultural heritage, peer groups, personal and family interests, gender)

d. Demonstrate self-awareness in decision making about own choices of media, techniques, and subject matter

Cultural/Historical

CH 6.1 Investigate how personal, cultural, or regional identity may be reflected in arts expressions

b. Participate, when possible, in partnerships with Saskatchewan artists and arts organizations to increase understanding of arts content and practices, and to understand how identity may be expressed in various art forms

Critical/Responsive

CR 6.2 Investigate and identify ways that the arts can express ideas about identity.

c. Demonstrate awareness that artists are curious about their world and explore significant questions and concepts such as identity

Workshop Vocabulary

Poetry

A type of creative writing that touches our emotions, stirs imaginations, and captures a moment, feeling, or idea.

Magnet

Magnets are pieces of metal or rock with an invisible power to attract special kinds of metal.

Magnetic Poetry

Poetry, often short and surreal, created by assembling magnetic pieces bearing words or word fragments.

Parts of Speech

A class of words identified according to the kinds of ideas they express and the way they work in a sentence.

Collaboration

The action of working with someone to produce or create something.

Pop Art

Pop art is a style of art based on simple, bold images of everyday items, such as soup cans, painted in bright colors.

Collage

Collages are a popular pop art technique used to combine graphic elements including photos, text, and other things.

Pre Workshop Activity

Name: What Is Magnetic Poetry?

Duration

50 minutes

Materials

- Laptops (if possible)
- Build Your Own Magnetic Poetry Kit Handout
- Access to "Build Your Own Magnetic Poetry Kit" site
- Pencils

- Start the lesson by brainstorming different kinds of poetry with students. Ask if any of them have ever heard of magnetic poetry before.
- Show published examples of magnetic poetry: <http://www.shadowpoetry.com/magnet.html>
- Option to read an article called, "The Past and Future of Magnetic Poetry, The Populist Product That Began With A Sneeze" by Cara Giamo:
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-past-and-future-of-magnetic-poetry-the-populist-product-that-began-with-a-sneeze>
- Mention to students that a key component of poetry is playing with language.
- Refer to the "Build Your Own Magnetic Poetry Kit" (<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/13ifrk7k-BmOgtBo9CPLI0DbWhY3mQbNNo0YBRzISTjc/edit>) or use the paper cut-outs
- Work together with the students to start filling in their word banks. Students are to brainstorm a set of 15 nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs, then type or write them into the 15 magnets on the right side of the refrigerator.
- Be sure to leave some blank word magnets to include extra words you might need. Feel free also to duplicate any words you wish to use more than once. Repetition can be a powerful device in poetry.

Broadcast Program

00:00 - 00:05:

- Artist Bio Video + Introduction

00:05 - 00:15:

- Activate prior knowledge about nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs. Touch on how the materials of poetry are language and the parts of speech.
- Discuss what they already know about magnetic poetry.
- Each student will be given a blank, laminated sheet with a small label indicating whether they are a noun, adjective, verb, or adverb.
- Each student is to contribute one word to give to Cooper and he will craft a poem out of the words the students gave him.

00:15 - 00:43

- Students open their magnetic poetry kit word banks and start crafting their poems.
- Each word group will be called to the mini-fridge and will have 7 minutes to collaborate on a magnetic poem. When the timer goes up, a student (or Cooper) will read the poem on the fridge.

00:43 - 00:50:

- Cooper to share the magnetic poem he wrote with the words assigned by the students. Opportunities for students to share their independent work.

Post Workshop Activity

Name: Magnetic To Pop Art Poetry

Duration

50 minutes

Materials

- Laminating Pouch
- Bits of coloured cards or tissue paper
- Glue Stick
- Fine tip permanent markers

- Students to print off (if not already in a physical copy) their magnetic poems.
- Students have the option to colour patterns onto cardstock paper and cut them out. Keep the designs bold.
- It is recommended that teachers watch the video at the following link (start at 3:10) in order to see visually what it is that you will be creating with your class:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPQF5SbvudM&t=194s>
- Teacher to provide each student with a laminated packet.
- Students insert their magnetic fridge into the laminated packet. Using fine tip permanent markers, they are to trace the image of the fridge as well as their magnetic poems.
- Students remove the base image from the laminating packet and begin adding colour. They are to now begin glueing colours inside the packet. Choose a number of colours and patterns, and it does not need to stay perfectly within the lines. Materials can also be layered for effect.
- Once they have filled in the outline of the fridge, students can choose a brightly coloured piece of paper for their backdrop.
- Laminate the poems, and then display together as a collaborative piece of pop art.
- Close by showing some examples of famous collage style pop art, such as Warhol's "Campbell's Soup Cans" to show collage as a major form used in pop art.

Additional Information

Upcoming Workshops - 2022/23

May 31st-June 1st - Amanda Murray - Hip Hop Dance

Keep an eye on the Live Arts websites for announcements on next school year's list of workshops!

More Art by the Artist

Find out more about Cooper at the following links:

<https://themamawiproject.medium.com/celebrating-cooper-skjeie-4751a628265f>

<https://us18.campaign-archive.com/?u=918a32a30ee6e0184eeb51bcf&id=85532cbb13>

<https://poetryinvoice.ca/about/who-we-are>

