



 Prestwick House

Free Lesson Plan

POETRY:

Night

“Found Poem”

CCSS.ELA-Writing: W.4, W.5

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Objective:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Create, revise, and edit a poem related to *Night*

Time:

Approximately 60 minutes or 2 class periods

Materials:

Copy of *Night*, by Elie Wiesel

Handout #1: Directions

Handout #2: Sample poem



Procedure:

1. Make sure each student has a copy of *Night*.
2. Students can work independently or collaborate with another student.
3. Assign each student/pair a section of the text. This can be a chapter or specified group of pages. (Giving students the entire book can be overwhelming and distracting to them.)
4. When students are ready, explain what a found poem is and how to create one. Give students Handout #1 and Handout #2.
5. Consider using the completed found poems as part of a class discussion. Some students might enjoy presenting and sharing their poems. (Students using the same sections will invariably construct considerably different poems.)

Note:

This activity can encourage even the most reluctant student to write a poem. You can assign it at any point during or after reading *Night*.

**Handout 1****Directions**

A “found” poem is a poem made up entirely of phrases, sentences, or quotations found in the text. Go through your assigned section of *Night* and create a found poem based on it. The poem could tell the reader something about Elie’s emotional state, but this is not necessary; it may have direct relevance or be totally unrelated to the action of the story, which is one of the best parts of writing a found poem. The poem should be at least 10 lines.

- Step 1:** Review your assigned section. Identify and copy phrases and sentences you like, that speak to you, or make you stop and think.
- Step 2:** Arrange the phrases and sentences by theme or common characteristic. Some of the phrases may mention feelings, or some might deal with physical sensations. Some might just refer to the setting. Group them according to common traits you identify. (You do not have to use all the words found in Step 1.)
- Step 3:** Write your poem. Take the group of found words, phrases, and sentences and use them to construct a poem. (Remember—You must use words from the book only!) The lines do not need to rhyme, but they certainly may. You can arrange the words, phrases, and sentences in any way you like and change the punctuation. You may alter the tense of verbs, if necessary. Feel free to move adjectives and adverbs to create different images, but do not deviate from the author’s actual words.
- Step 4:** Reread the poem and make any changes to emphasize the poem’s ideas. Consider changing line breaks, punctuation, and/or capitalization.
- Step 5:** The final step is to give the poem an appropriate title. Remember, use words only from *Night*.



Handout 2

Sample Poem

Night
“Found Poem”

The following is an example taken entirely from Chapter 3.

“A Spring Day”

The spring sunshine
A beautiful April day
In the sky a few white clouds
In the morning, black coffee
Little gardens here and there
At noon, soup
Right out in the country
On the sunny road
A beautiful April day
The spring sunshine
My sister’s fair hair
Turned into ashes.

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Standards:

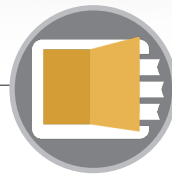
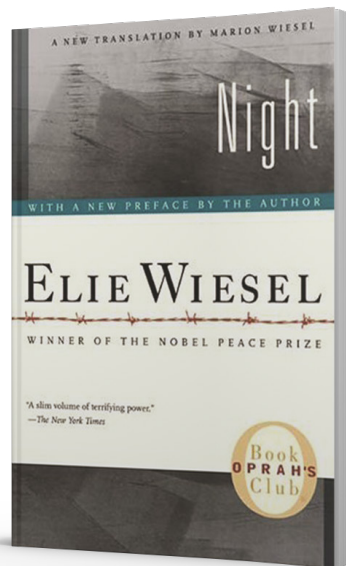
Common Core State Standards

CCSS.ELA-Writing: W.4, W.5

References:

Night, Hill & Wang edition, copyright 2006.

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