

Carol Varsalona

The Grand Canyon Experience 80 min

Objective:

As young poets, students will engage in noticing and wondering about the Grand Canyon to create an inspirational image poem. (double period needed)

Big Idea:

Nature is often a vehicle to inspire us to create. Students who notice and wonder often see the small moments clearly and are inspired by them to write. From choice options, voice rises.

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 5 min

Show photos captured of the Grand Canyon experience. Ask students to notice and wonder in pairs using one photo.

Resources

- [http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Eagle's Point #1.jpg](http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Eagle's_Point_#1.jpg)
- [http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Grand Canyon Experience.jpg](http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Grand_Canyon_Experience.jpg)
- [http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Guano Point.jpg](http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Guano_Point.jpg)
- [http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Nature's Majesty Unfolds Grand Canyon Experience Poem.png](http://wg.wonderopolis.org/uploads/users/70/263/Nature's_Majesty_Unfolds_Grand_Canyon_Experience_Poem.png)

2. Investigation and New Learning 50 min

Each partnership will:

- Read the WOD, #281 How Deep Is the Grand Canyon?
- Annotate the text, looking for the central idea and supporting details.
- Capture words and phrases that resonated with them to add to their new bank of knowledge.
- Complete one What I Learned and What I Wonder About task sheet together.
- Share their task sheet with another pair (Snowball Protocol) and determine what similarities and difference they found through their quad discussion.

- Return to their partnership to quickly read the blog posts, <http://beyondliteracylink.blogspot.com/2016/09/cel...> and <http://beyondliteracylink.blogspot.com/2016/09/cou...>
- Review the blogs' picture prompts and poetry created from the Grand Canyon Experience.
- Create a draft of a short septercet poem (7 syllables, 3 lines) in free verse, using new knowledge gained and vocabulary learned from the WOD 281.
- Assuming that students are familiar with digital tools, choose one of the pairs' poem and embed the poetry onto a photo of the Grand Canyon using PicMonkey or Canva at the SmartBoard for all to see.

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Have student pairs "play" with digital tools to create their own image poem about the Grand Canyon experience.

Confer with student groups regarding knowledge learned and vocabulary used to create their image poem.

Share the initial drafts of image poems through a gallery walk display, either on paper or using iPads or Chromebooks.

Ask student pairs to critique other pairs' work using Glow (positive comments) and Grow (wonderings that could lead to improvements in the work) Statements.

Note: An outgrowth of this lesson could be the creation of a mini-gallery of image poems for public display. (See a model, Autumn's Palette Gallery of Artistic Expressions at <http://beyondliteracylink.blogspot.com/2015/12/unveiling-of-autumns-palette-gallery.html>.)