

Teacher Notes



Onomatopoeia

Activity

The Sounds of Summer

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Devices
- ◆ **Topic:** Onomatopoeia
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 6 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 60 minutes

Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ LearningCheck™ and NoteFolio™ Applications
- ◆ LearningCheck™ files: **Rubric for Sounds of Summer Poem, Reflecting On What You've Done**
- ◆ Transparency: **What Is Onomatopoeia?**
- ◆ Optional Student Work Sheets: **Rubric for Sounds of Summer Poem, Reflecting On What You've Done**

Activity Overview

After sharing an example of onomatopoeic poetry, the teacher leads students in a brainstorming discussion about onomatopoeic words. The class, with devices, heads outside to write poems about the sounds of summer. Conclude the lesson by having students sit in a circle outside and share their poems.

Tip

Let students know a day ahead of time that they will need to check the batteries of their devices for this activity.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Ask a student to read aloud the Walter Dean Myers' poem, "Summer," published in the 1996 book, *Poetry in Motion: 100 Poems from the Subways and Buses*. Review the definition of onomatopoeia; place the transparency titled **What is Onomatopoeia?** on the overhead projector. Use examples of onomatopoeia from the poem to initiate a discussion in which the class brainstorms a list of onomatopoetic words. Write the list on a transparency on the overhead projector. Instruct students to duplicate the list in their notes.

Note: Feel free to find your own example of an onomatopoetic poem if you can't find a copy of the Myers' poem.

During the Activity

Weather permitting, take your students and their charged devices outside. Find a nice spot on the school property, and have your students sit down and write a brief poem that captures the sounds of summer.

If weather is not on your side, I suggest showing a clip from Claude Nuridsany and Marie Perrenou's engrossing 1996 documentary, *Microcosmos*. I have always had good luck in the classroom with this cinematic pastoral about the triumphs and tribulations of insects in a French meadow.

Use the following instructions to access the NoteFolio™ application on the device.



1. Turn on the device and press **[APPS]**. Select the NoteFolio™ application by highlighting the number next to it using **▲ ▼**.




2. Press **[ENTER]**. Press **[ENTER]** again to move past the title screen.





3. Type your work. To save your work, press **[GRAPH]** to access the **MENU**.

4. Select **4: Save As** by using   to highlight this option.



5. Press . Type a file name. A suggested file name is **SOUNDS** (for "Sounds of Summer").



6. Press  (OK), or press  to complete the saving process.

After the Activity

Ask students to sit in a circle and share their poems. They can read right from their devices or you may chose to have students go through a revision process and have the reading on a different day. While one student reads, the others use the LearningCheck™ file (Rubric) to evaluate the poem. All students will complete the *Reflecting On What You've Done* Section of the LearningCheck™ file.

Student Work Sheet

Name: _____

Rubric for Your Sounds of Summer Poem

Date: _____

For this rubric, the numbers correspond to the following statements:

- 1 Strongly Disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Neutral
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly Agree

The poem creatively approaches the topic of summer.

1 2 3 4 5

The poem features onomatopoeia.

1 2 3 4 5

The poem uses other poetic devices such as alliteration, assonance, repetition and rhyme.

1 2 3 4 5

The student spoke in a clear, audible voice and maintained eye contact when sharing her/his poem.

1 2 3 4 5

The typed poem is free of distracting errors.

1 2 3 4 5

Student Work Sheet
Reflecting On What You've Done

Name: _____

Date: _____

What did you like about this activity?

What did you not like about this activity?

Is there anything you would have done differently if you were the teacher?

What was the most challenging part of this activity?

What was the easiest part of this activity?

Transparency

What Is Onomatopoeia?

Webster's Dictionary definition

n. formation of a word by using sounds that resemble or suggest the object or action to be named

Another definition

An onomatopoeic word is a sound effect word.

Bang!

Knock knock!

Vrooom!