

Teacher Notes



Pantoum Poems and Pop Songs

Activity 1 Exploring Pantoum Poems

Activity Overview

In this activity, students analyze a pantoum poem in order to understand its structure.

Directions

Before the Activity Begins

Place a pantoum on the overhead projector for the entire class to see. Ask one student to read the poem aloud. Do not discuss the poem; students will discuss a different pantoum later on.

During the Activity

Divide the students into groups of four. Give each group a different pantoum to read and analyze as well as copies of the student work sheet, **Pantoum Analysis Guide**.

You can find pantoums at the following websites:

<http://poetree.virtualave.net/workshop/pantoum.html>

<http://anitrweb.org/kalliope/pantoum.html>

http://www.geocities.com/bikies_poetry/pantoum.html

Or consider writing your own pantoums ahead of time as examples.

Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Literary Genres
- ◆ **Topic:** Poetry
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 7 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 45-60 minutes
(about one class period)

Materials

- ◆ Sample pantoums
- ◆ Overhead projector
- ◆ Student Work Sheet, **Pantoum Analysis Guide**

Each group will:

1. Read the pantoum.
2. Determine its structure.
3. Read the pantoum to the class.

Instructions for students are provided in the **Pantoum Analysis Guide**.

After the Activity

Place a pantoum on the overhead projector (different from the one you used at the beginning of the class.) Ask a student to read the poem aloud. Review the structure of a pantoum.

Homework

The small groups will meet again in the next class session. Each student will need to bring the lyrics for a song he/she likes. The group's success depends upon each student remembering to bring these lyrics to the next class session.

Student Work Sheet
Pantoum Analysis Guide

Name: _____

Date: _____

Content

- ◆ What is the poem about?

- ◆ What is the mood or tone of the poem? What words help convey the mood?

- ◆ Do you like the poem? Why or why not?

Structure

- ◆ How many unique lines are there in the pantoum?

- ◆ How many times is each line repeated?

- ◆ Describe the pattern of repetition.

Sharing

Your group will soon be reading the pantoum to the class. Decide who will read which lines. Every person in the group must participate.