

Lorraine Minosky
Duncan Gibson
LLED 445 Teaching Poetry
Dr. Kedrick James

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Assignment 3

Giving Poetic Voice to the Lost and Discarded

School community poetry project in the library

Big Idea: We can find poetry in mundane, small things.

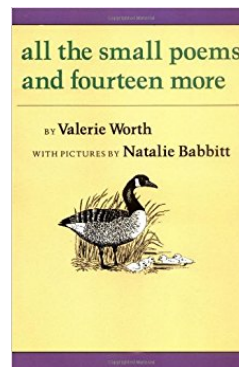
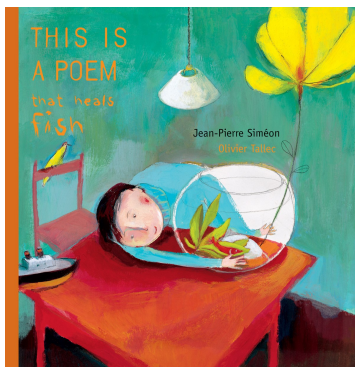
Inspired by:

When you put your old sweater on backwards or inside out, dear Arthur, you might say that it is new again. A poem turns words around, upside down, and –suddenly!– the world is new.

This is a Poem that Heals Fish by Jean-Pierre Simeon and Olivier Tallec

As well as:

all the small poems and fourteen by Valerie Worth, Pictures by Natalie Babbitt :



Project plan:

Create a display of lost and found items, set up a Padlet site for each object, with QR code link. Students can submit digitally produced poems: voice narrated slideshows (ex. Shadow Puppet or iMovie) or visual poems (ex. Blackout found poems using Doodlebuddy app) or performances of existing published poems.

Students are invited to look at lost and found items with new eyes and through their poetry, encourage others to stop and notice and ponder everyday objects Examples we posted as a start are:

Voice Poems: personifying objects and trying to tell us things about the object that we don't already know

We used the following frame for brainstorming purposes:

I am _____
you know me for _____
My mother is _____
My father is _____
I was born in _____
I live _____
My best friend is _____
Because _____ (We like to) _____
My enemy is _____
Because _____
I love _____
Because _____
I dream (or wish) _____



Padlet: Glove Lost and Found

I am Glove

I am glove
You know me
Supple swayer at pageants
Sipper of afternoon tea
Sister of a
Scandalous seductress

Elegant cousin of
Humble mitten
Enemy of the infamous bloodied
glove of acquittal

My brothers:
Defiant, raised fists of leather
Scrappy pugilists of the ring
Duel challengers
Perforated racers

My children:
Fingerless purveyors of Goth

I lie here
Alone, sisterless
Jilted, discarded
Longing for the heady fragrances
Of Parisian gantiers
Why was I forsaken?
Did I slap too hard?





Padlet: Shorts Lost and Found



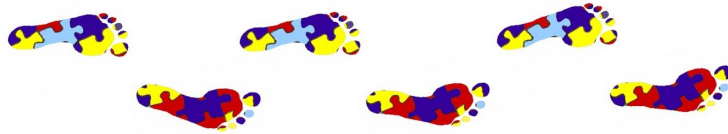
Gym Shorts Lament

I am gym shorts
you know me from basketball
practice
My mother is pant
My father is mesh
I was born in an earthly
commingling of competition
and heat
I live like an elastic drape
around your midsection
My best friend is detergent
We like to go swimming after a
long practice
My enemy is gym bag's back
pocket
Because I get left there to stew
in my own fetid discontent
Have you left me because your
wallet fell out of my pocket one
too many times?
Because your friends have
changed styles to just below
the knee cap?
Oh for one last spin (cycle) in
the heaven of your
washer/dryer!

Another genre we tried was **Found/Blackout poetry**, which we found fitting, given the overall theme of our project.

The Doodlebuddy app was used to black out text found in a Wikipedia article: pulling poetry out of the informational text.





Further ideas could be for students to write about animals or abstract nouns (ex. Hope, friendship etc.) that might be discovered in the lost and found.

Other resources that could provide further inspiration for this project are two biographies about poets (Pablo Neruda and Misuzu Kaneko) who express deep kindness and reverence toward small things but also had an immense impact on people.

