

Understanding Poetics: Repetition and Simile with Jamila “Jam Poet” Wimberly

Grades 11- 12

(Video contains some adult language)

This lesson examines a poetic work that exemplifies the usage of repetition and simile. Students will be able to identify the two poetic devices, analyze how they are used to express overall meaning of the poem, and utilize these poetic devices in their own work.

Materials: Notebook and pen or computer to write with, PDF of poem “Tired”

The Lesson

When introducing poetics, it is important to understand the fundamental elements of poetry. Repetition and Simile are two of the most foundational aspects to all poetic works. Repetition is the art of repeating a word, phrase, line, or concept in a poem to emphasize meaning. Simile is the comparison of two things or ideas to help illustrate likeness to one another.

1. Introduction of the Artist: Jamila “JAM Poet” Wimberly.
2. Performance of poem “Tired” by JAM Poet.
3. Warm up activity: Prompt students to write about a particular emotion.
4. Explanation of key terms: repetition and simile. Illustrate overall meaning of poem.
5. Independent writing: practice repetition and simile. Repeat a poetic element 5 times, and use at least 5 similes.
6. Outcome/Call to Action: Share your work with the world! Post your poem and tag artist @jam_poet, @poetrypromise, @nvartscouncil

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

Reading Standards for Literature 6–12

Craft and Structure 4, Grade 7:

Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text

Writing Standards 6–12

Text Types and Purposes 2D, Grade 11-12: Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary, and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic.

Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects 6–12 [WHST]

Text Types and Purposes 2D, Grade 11-12: Use precise language, domain-specific vocabulary and techniques such as metaphor, simile, and analogy to manage the complexity of the topic

Connection to Literacy: active listening, communicating, thinking, making connections, expressing ideas, responding

Resources: Download PDF of poem “Tired” by JAM Poet

About the Artist

Jamila “JAM Poet” Wimberly

A champion for feminism and challenging the status-quo, JAM Poet is a show-stopping spoken word artist, curator, and community organizer. Author of the book "To Get Ahead"(JANCO, 2017), JAM has been published by Write About Now, Nevada Humanities, Belladonna Series, Penn Sound, and Plot Twist Publishing. She has featured at MGMRI’s Distinguished Speaker Series, Nevada Humanities: Resiliency Art Exhibit, The Women Of Color Arts Festival, among many others. A graduate of the New School University, JAM Poet is the founder of The JAM LV Open Mic and Show in Las Vegas. You can follow her and her show @jam_poet and @thejamlv.

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Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>