



LESSON PLAN

School Year:2019-2020

Residency/Workshop Title: School: IS 125
#14

Grade: 6

Time length: 15min video and assignment Virtual Lesson

Lesson Title: Praise Poems

OBJECTIVE: *What is the purpose of learning this? How does it connect to a Big Idea?*

This assignment connects to all of the big ideas:

- Throughout the world, poetry plays an important role in the daily lives of people - Praise Poetry is an important part of cultural life in many parts of Africa and connects to important moments in community.
- Different cultures have specific forms and traditions associated with poetry - Praise Poetry is a tradition that reflects the diverse poetic and artistic practices of Africa.
- For most of human history, poetry has been expressed orally- Praise Poems are part of the long standing oral tradition practiced by Griots.
- Poetry can be conveyed not only through words, but visually, sonically, and through movement - Praise Poets can use song and musical accompaniment.

MATERIALS: *What materials/resources/tools/instruments are needed to teach this lesson?*

Pen, Paper, Google Docs, art supplies

ENGAGEMENT: *How will you initially engage students' attention?*

I will engage students' attention by sharing images and music that reflect the African Tradition. I will also share a personal story to draw them in and reflect the oral tradition of combining storytelling with improvised poetry. Grace will perform both a traditional piece from Nigeria and a personal piece about her mother.

MODEL/DEMONSTRATION: *What will you do? Model? Demo a process or technique? Think aloud? Look/listen/read an example of the art form you'll be teaching?*

Grace and I will demonstrate praise poems and Grace will share a visual art piece.

GUIDED PRACTICE: *How will students practice the new learning? How will they be guided?*

Students will be given clear instructions and structure to support their writing process.

INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION: *How will students explore the new learning on their own? As individuals, in pairs, in small groups?*

Students will create their own poems and illustrations. The assignment also encourages students to interact with family members to research the content of their poems.

SHARE/CLOSURE:

How will students share out to demonstrate their understanding of the teaching point? Will they reflect or review? Ask questions? Is there an assignment to complete before next class?

Students will share their poems and portraits.

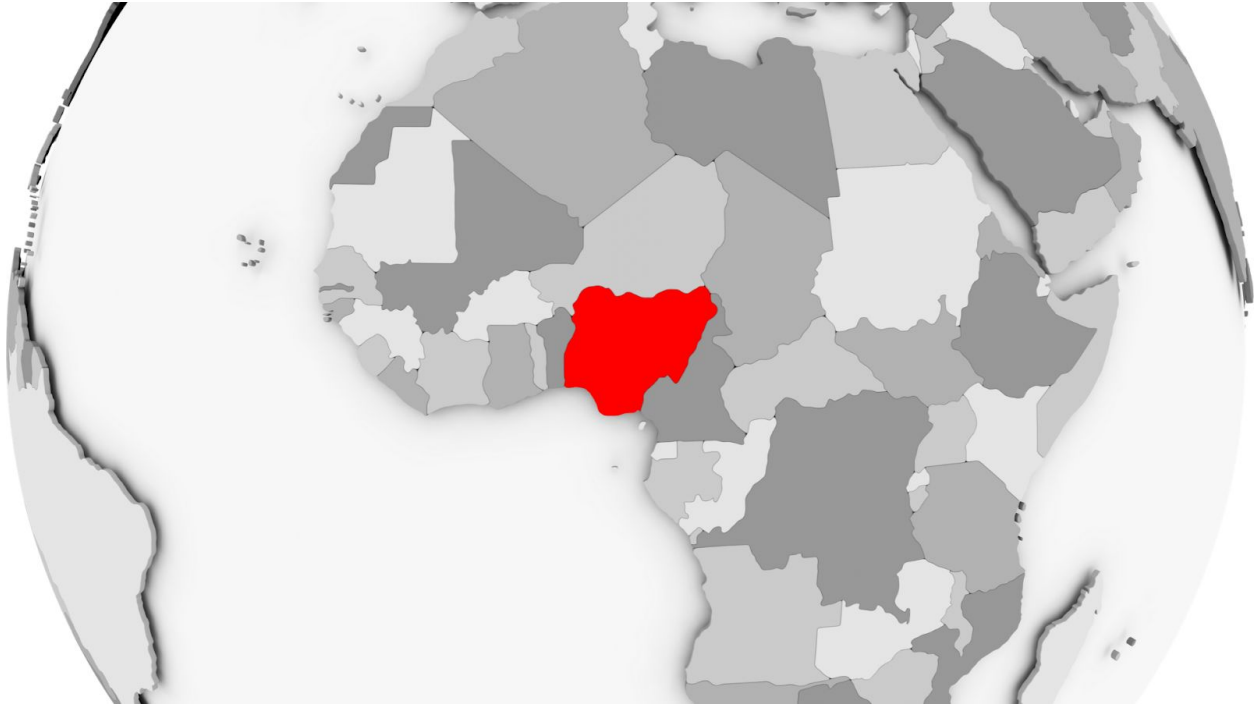


A praise poem is a tribute; an important part of political and literary expression in the continent of Africa.

In Zulu, praise poetry is called izibongo.



It is also found throughout west Africa and we are going to look at a praise poem from Nigeria.



It refers to a poetic expression that not only defines but names an individual. Praise poetry is written with bold imagery, expressed with metaphors. Look for the metaphors in the following praise poem. What is the poet comparing the young man to and why?

In Praise of a Young Man

Young man, you are
A hare that ascends a hill running,
A rope that drags the elephant along,
A lion that kills the tiger,
A head that never touches the ground,
A log of the *inyi* wood.

Nigeria

Now let's praise someone that is important to you.

Identify someone in your family or a friend who has been supporting you during this challenging time.

Write down their name:

First task:

Research their name:

1. Ask them what their name means? Is it from a certain culture? Is there a myth or story connected to their name?
2. Look up their name and see what other interesting details you can find out about their name.
3. Make a list of what you learned:

Now that you have some info about their name, let's go a little deeper to prepare for our praise poem.

1. Name a specific way they support you. Do they help you with school, do they make you laugh? Do they make you feel secure and safe?

2. Name a specific memory where they did something that helped you during this time?

3. If they were a superhero, what kind of superhero would they be?

4. If they were an animal what kind of animal would they be?

5. If they were something in nature, what would they be?
(a tree, a river, a mountain, a rock?)

6. If they were an emotion what would they be?

Now that you have info about their name and some more juicy details about why you want to praise them, let's create a praise poem.

In praise of	(put their name)
A line about their name and what it means and if it connects to why you want to praise them	
A line about how they support you)	

2-3 lines about a specific story where they helped you	
A line comparing them to a superhero)	
A line comparing them to an animal	
A line comparing them to something from nature (a tree, a river, a mountain, a rock)	
A line comparing them to an emotion)	
In Praise of	(put their name)



Once you have finished your praise poem, now create a praise portrait.

Draw a portrait of your family member, teacher, or friend. In that portrait add visual details from the poem. For example, you might include images of a mountain or a bear, or captain marvel.

Attach the drawing for us to see :)

We can't wait to read your poems!

-Baba and Grace

