

Words Matter: The Power of Words

Project-Based Learning Plan

Project Idea: Using Car Window Poetry, students will pick a word that represents them and create poetry to leave on unsuspecting people's car windows



General Content: Language Arts and Social Studies

Driving Question:

1. What word represents you?
2. How can we use words to encourage and create hope and beauty?

Major Projects:

1. Word posters to share their word that represents them
2. Car Window Poetry poems to leave on unsuspecting people's car windows

Content Areas & General Topics:

R.1.A. Asking and responding to relevant questions

R.1.A.C. Seeking clarification and using information/facts and details about texts and supporting answers with evidence from text

R.1.B.G. Recognizing words that have literal/nonliteral meanings

R.1.B.G.H. I can use important words about the topic we are learning

Standards & Other Goals:

P.C.1/1.D. Analyze how being an active and informed citizen make a difference in your community

W.2.C. Write poems that:

A. Establish a topic based on the student's experience or imagination

C. Develop sensory details

F. Use specific words that are related to the topic and audience

Project Presentation:

1. Key Knowledge, Understanding, and Success Skills:

1. Writing poems using details, nonliteral and literal meaning of words, and using important words
2. Analyze how being an active and informed citizen makes a difference in your community

2. Challenging Problem or Question: How can we use words to encourage and create hope and beauty?

3. Sustained Inquiry:

1. Students will look for and learn the difference about helpful vs. hurtful words in a variety of books.
2. Students will have the option to learn about Car Window Poetry from Founder & Chief Sharer Alex Lewis.
3. Students will participate in a variety of activities to learn how words can hurt and help/heal.

4. Authenticity: The real aspects of this project are connected to Car Window Poetry.

5. Student Voice & Choice:

1. Students will choose their own word for the year.
2. Through gradual release, students will decide who the audience for their poems will be.

- 6. Reflection:** Throughout the project, students will verbally reflect about each month's audience. They will also post their poems on the classroom's website for classmates and family to see and comment on. Students' poems and videos of them creating or sharing their poems may be posted on Car Window Poetry's digital channels and/or school social media pages.
- 7. Critique & Revision:** Feedback will be received from all of the above, as well as from the students themselves after each month. Based on that feedback, revisions can be made.
- 8. Public Product:**
 1. Intention Posters sharing the students' words of the year
 2. Various Car Window Poetry poems that will be delivered to various audiences

Lesson Plan:**1st: What's Your Word? (Time Frame: 2-3 class sessions of 30 minutes)**

Having the students pick a word that represents them. Here are 3 questions to start the thinking:

1. What virtue do you want more of in your life?
2. What challenge do you want to overcome in your life?
3. What are you most passionate about and do more in your life?

Resource: ["My WORD is 'IMPACT'" video from MyIntent](#)

There are a group of portraits with various words below. Have class sit in a circle. Place portraits in the middle and spread them out. It is okay if the students cannot see every portrait. Ask what they see similar/different about these portraits. They might come up with, 'Every one has a word in them,' 'Most have a person or a part of a person in them,' 'They all have a setting,' 'They are not all colored,' 'Some are black and white,' etc. These are ALL positive words that could be used for "Words of the Year" to help generate further ideas. Then, create a brainstorm list of possible words for them to choose from. Then, have them pick a word and write or illustrate (depending on age and ability) why they chose that word. The art teacher could be pulled in to integrate this activity.

2nd: Helpful vs. Hurtful Words... Words are Powerful (Time Frame: 2-3 class sessions of 30 minutes)

You will be using at least 2-3 literature books to help illustrate that words are powerful and have the ability to help/hurt. There is a list below. You could pull in your counselor, if this resource is available in your school. After they are familiar with words that are helpful and hurtful (not necessarily cuss words), create a life-size student of paper. Have various students say things to this student that are hurtful or words that might not be hurtful but said in a hurtful tone. As they are said, rip pieces off that

person. Then, talk about what happened to “our friend.” Then, have each person apologize or explain that they didn’t mean it (misunderstanding). As they do that, re-tape the ripped pieces back onto the person. At the end, talk about how our “friend” looks. It is a very powerful visual to show how strong words can really be.

3rd: Presentation with Founder & Chief Sharer, Alex Lewis from Car Window Poetry (Time Frame: 1 hour)

Alex Lewis created Car Window Poetry with a belief that students' words matter and have the power to change the world. In this optional presentation, Lewis empowers students to explore their words and the impact they can have when they go out and share those words. Prior to the presentation, students need to each have a word of the year chosen and to have watched Car Window Poetry’s feature on NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt. Below is a family newsletter you can send home. The presentation goes over the students’ word choices and then talks about poetry, what it can consist of, and then gives students the opportunity to write their own poems. It is an interactive experience. Students will finish the workshop with 1-4 poems completed. Pictures taken during the presentation can be posted on the class website, school social media pages, and may possibly be shared on Car Window Poetry’s digital platforms. [Click here to request Alex to speak at your school!](#)

Resource: [Poet Leaves Notes On Windshields, Inspiring Others, One Line At A Time | NBC Nightly News](#)

4th: Delivery of the Created Poems (Time Frame: 20 minutes)

Students will deliver their first set of poems in the staff parking lot. The staff are aware and instant feedback can be provided. The staff should be prepped and asked to either email or send in photos of them “finding poems,” so you can share with the students, even though this would not normally would happen. This also creates a safe environment where ALL students can instantly participate. Pictures taken during the delivery can be posted on the class website, school social media pages, and may possibly be shared on Car Window Poetry’s digital platforms.

5th: Continuation of Project (Time Frame: Unknown)

Students will create poems each month for delivery to various audiences of their choice. Car Window Poetry cards should always be available in the classroom for students' use and left in a classroom bucket or taken home and spread in their own neighborhoods.

Resource: [Free Download of Car Window Poetry Cards](#)

Books:

Title	Author
<u>Ouch Moments: When Words Are Used in Hurtful Ways (2015)</u>	Michael Genhart
<u>That's Not Funny! (2005)</u>	Adrian Johnson
<u>Tease Monster: A Book About Teasing Vs. Bullying (2013)</u>	Julia Cook
<u>Have You Filled a Bucket Today?: A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids (2015)</u>	Carol McCloud
<u>We All Sing With the Same Voice (2005)</u>	J. Miller & Sheppard Greene
<u>A Sick Day for Amos McGee (2010)</u>	Philip C. Stead
<u>Each Kindness (2012)</u>	Jacqueline Woodson
<u>Last Stop on Market Street (2017)</u>	Matt de la Peña
<u>Those Shoes (2009)</u>	Maribeth Boelts
<u>Enemy Pie (2000)</u>	Derek Munson
<u>Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed (2017)</u>	Emily Pearson
<u>The Invisible Boy (2013)</u>	Trudy Ludwig
<u>Rude Cakes (2015)</u>	Rowboat Watkins

Letter to Families:**Words matter.**

We all have the ability to share words, even if you don't consider yourself a poet. When people come together, write together and choose to go out and share their words together, hope happens. Beauty happens. Our communities are made better. Start sharing words today!

Alex Lewis, Founder & Chief Sharer of Car Window Poetry, will be meeting with our class on ***insert date and time*** to share this powerful message and to help us learn how to share our words. We are so excited to start this journey!

If you have time, check out Car Window Poetry's website: carwindowpoetry.com

We will also be picking a **word of intent!**

Each teacher in our hall has already picked their words for the year and many other teachers are following suit! The students are excited and eager to pick their words! They will be sharing them with Mr. Lewis on ***insert day***!

Thank you for your support!

insert your name

Photos for Words of the Year Activity:

















