



Honoring the Spirit of America

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“America’s Poems”

Subject Area:

Social Studies

Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:

American Government (12th grade)

Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:

Vocabulary

Concept/ Topic to Teach:

Patriotic Poems that play an important role in American

Georgia Standards Addressed:

SSCG6

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

General Goal(s):

Understand how certain poems describe/define America and America’s past

Specific Objectives:

1. Understand and use poetic terms
2. Students will write how poems reflect patriotism in American

Required Materials:

-A transcript of the following poems:

“America” by William Cullen Bryant

“An Army Corps on the March” by Walt Whitman

“The Antiquity of Freedom” by William Cullen Bryant

“Flower of Liberty” by Oliver Wendell Holmes

“Freedom is a Habit” by Carl Sandburg

“God Save the Flag” by Oliver Wendell Holmes

Internet access and printers

Paper and pens

Board or overhead

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Ask students to define the following terms in their own words: liberty, freedom, union, democracy, and America.
2. Use a graphic organizer to define these terms.
3. Break the class into seven groups and assign each group one of the poems listed above.
4. Have student note the common words that were discussed at the beginning of class. Students should use context clues from the poems to determine the meaning of each word.
5. Students should read their group's poem to the class.
6. Help students identify the terms and poetic devices that are used in the poems (simile, metaphor, personification, repetition, and other various devices).
7. Have students write a journal entry/personal response to this activity.
8. Each student should then write a poem with the terms discussed above.

Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:

Extensions for Gifted Students:

Research and identify patriotic poems in other countries. Students should analyze the poems and note any of the terms discussed above.

Possible Connections to Other Subjects:

Language Arts.

Additional Comments: