Sense Poem

Introduction

This activity is a writing activity that involves movement and observation, and which helps re-energise students and gets them away from the screen for a few moments.

In the activity, students leave their desk and look out of the window. They then compose a short sense poem about what they can see.

Webinar time reference: 31:15 – 35:45

Level: Any age from A2 +

Time: 10 – 20 minutes

Aim: To encourage students to be observant and to help them re-energise

Preparation:

• None

Procedure:

• Ask students to take a short break and either go outside their house or look out of the window (an open window if possible).

• Give them a 5-minute maximum time limit to do this.
While they look out the window, tell them to think about what they can:
- See
- Hear
- Smell
- Feel

When the students get back to their desk, put them into pairs or groups and ask them to tell their peers about their experience.

Next, give them the sense poem structure from the materials below and ask them to complete it.

Once they have completed their sense poems, you can ask them to share them or send them to you. Note: You can make a digital book of these to share.

You could also ask students to add images. These could be photographs with older students, or younger ones can draw what they see.

Share the book of poems with all the students.

**Materials:**
Sense poem
It is [add season] and [morning/afternoon/evening]
Hearing [...]
Seeing [...]
The scent of [...]
I touch [...]
I feel [...]

**Additional resources**

**Using poetry**

Any authentic material exposes students to some 'real English' and can be very motivating for your students, provided they are supported throughout the task. The other great thing about poems is for students to have the opportunity to see the language work creatively and freely. Find out more about how to use poems.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/using-poetry
Kids and poetry

- Poetry is a great tool to use with your learners as it helps practise not only listening, speaking, reading and writing skills all together, but stretches learners’ imaginations too. Explore these ideas from Jo Budden for using poetry with younger children.

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/kids-and-poetry

Teaching pathways: Skills for remote teaching

- In this practical five-week course, you will develop the skills you need for remote teaching and reflect on how they relate to your learners’ learning. You will learn about different approaches to remote teaching and consider what factors make the transition from the physical to online classroom successful.

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/teaching-pathways-skills-remote-teaching

Remote teaching tips

- This publication offers a range of practical tips and advice for remote teaching in all contexts.

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/remote-teaching-tips

Getting started with online teaching

- Many classes and school systems all over the world are taking steps to offer lessons online. However, stepping into the digital world overnight can be challenging for many teachers. This guide is useful for teachers and teacher educators who have little experience of online teaching and need some advice on where to start.

  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/getting-started-online-teaching