

CONNECTING WITH POETRY PROJECT # 5

DRAMA

HAM IT UP!: INSTRUCTIONS FOR A DRAMATIC READING

Choose a poem which you can treat like a mini-play. It should be at least a page or more in length. Look in books or sections of books on Narrative Poetry or Poems for Voices or Story Poems.

Decide what characters will read what parts of the poem.

Decide how the characters should read each part. This includes all the things you can do with your voice.

Decide how the characters should act while they say each part. This includes all the body movements.

Make copies of the poem with the characters who say each line and the movements they should make written in.

Decide what props would be important to have to suggest characters or actions. Find these props. Add the prop suggestions to your copy of the poem.

Write a short introduction to your dramatic reading and include the title of the poem, the author and something to spark the interest of the listeners. If you want, you can find a bit of music to set the mood.

Write an ending to your dramatic reading including the names and responsibilities of each person who helped. The music can help with the ending too.

Practice your dramatic reading. Change anything that does not go smoothly. Practice again until it does go smoothly.

Videotape your presentation or present it live to a group.

POINTS FOR FOCUS AND EVALUATION:

1. Did you choose a poem with good possibilities for drama?
2. Did you choose suitable lines for each character to read?
3. Did you figure out a good way for the lines to be read?
4. Did your figure out suitable actions?
5. Did you make a copies of the poem with the divisions of lines and actions written in?
6. Did you use suitable props and write them into the poem copy?
7. Did you write an introduction and ending?
8. Did you practice until the reading went smoothly?
9. Did your videotape or present your dramatic reading?

10. If you worked with a partner did you cooperate to get the job done well and on time? What could you have done to make the job easier or the result better?