

W4C 2010 Lesson Plans » Raised By...

Writer's Notebook Lesson Plans: Aja Booker

Lesson: Raised By poem

Resource: Teaching For Joy and Justice, By Linda Christensen

Purpose: Build a community of writers

Step 1: Pass out copies of Kelly Norman Ellis' poem "Raised by Women" and read it aloud to students.

Step 2: Students then generate a list of people that have raised, influenced, inspired them. Teacher should generate their own personal list to model for students. Like Ellis, students can see that celebrities can influence us or have an impact on shaping who we are.

Step 3: Students share out their list while teacher charts their responses. This helps the students who may not have thought of certain people or affiliations like coaches or their church.

Step 4: Teacher reads Ellis' poem once more and this time students highlight the words and phrases that are repeated throughout the poem. Teacher then charts the words/phrases that the students have highlighted and mention. The class is directed to look at the structure/pattern of Ellis' poem. Students should notice that the stanzas often start with "I was raised by" and "some" then finished with phrases like "kind of," "sort of," or "type of."

Step 5: Teacher asks students for synonyms for the phrase raised by. Students may come up with influenced by, inspired by, brought up, etc.

Step 6: Using the document camera, or overhead, the teacher leads a discussion with the class about labeling the stanzas in Ellis' poem. Ellis' first stanza deals with food and as students name these categories, everyone labels the stanza. There are seven stanzas total and are labeled as follows: food, hair, physical appearance, choices, music, attitude, and professions.

Step 7: Students generate more ideas for categories of stanzas they could have in their own poem like cars, video games, sports, etc. Students share out and teacher charts their ideas.

Step 8: Students are encouraged to think about the people they listed that have raised/influenced/inspired them and match them to some of the categories their stanzas could center around. Also, they are reminded of the structure of the stanzas.

Step 9: Students are given about 20 minutes to start their own "Raised By" poem.

Step 10: Students who are willing can share out.

Writing For Change Student Work Sample
A student sample from a Mentor Text Lesson using the poem
Raised by Women by Kelly Norman Ellis

Raised by ... Samoan Women!!
By Christiana J.

I was raised by Soamoans
Who ate beefy, slimy palosami
Chicken and beef loving
“go fix you a plate!”
kind of Somoan women.

Some hard working
Problem solving, writing, producing
“Stay your butt in school!”
yelling, screaming, shouting if I do badly
type of sister

Some proper sitting
Hands in lap, sitting up
“say your prayer before you eat”
type of aunties.

Some burnt tan,
Caramel, honey, and brown skinned
Sort of women

Samoan dancing
“Shake your big, wide hips
from side to side!”
“Put your back into it”
kind of aunties.

Samoan talking
“Oute Alofa teleianntesoe!”
Olf ituaiqa fafine

I was raised by
Samoan women.