

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Heid Erdrich - Writer

Objectives: Heid Erdrich embraces her Ojibwe heritage in her writing. Create your own written work about family traditions to be read aloud.

Tools/Resources: Pencil and paper.



Video Clip: <http://www.tpt.org/mn-original/episode/heid-e-erdrich/>

Activity:

- 1) Choose a memory of a favorite family tradition.
 - a. Write a short poem inspired by that memory.
 - i. Focus on using visual language to give the reader the feeling of memory, not just the facts.
 - ii. Include description of the way the food smelled, the weather that day, etc.
- 2) In small groups have everyone but the reader close their eyes.
 - a. Using “nothing, but the power of words,” read your poems aloud.
- 3) Regroup and discuss the segment and the power of words:
 - a. What makes poetry and prose powerful?
 - b. How does closing your eyes change the way you listened to the poem?