

Moheb Soliman: Interdisciplinary Poetry

Objectives: Moheb Soliman is a poet who believes in the nonhuman living world (animals, nature, ecosystems) and experiencing wilderness. To him, it is a “radical experience to be in the natural world and re-calibrate who you are and on what axis you orient yourself around.” Place and identity play a vital role in this experience of the self - in this activity, you will think of a place special to you, either in the natural world or not (however the natural world is ideal). Think of it as an “authentic encounter” in a natural space.

A poem will be written about that place, a poem that captures that place’s meaning to you.

Standards (Suggested 4+):

ELA:

4.6.3.3 - Write narrative and other creative texts to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences

4.6.4.4 - Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

4.8.4.4 - Report on a topic and avoid plagiarism by identifying sources, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes, speak clearly at an understandable pace

Tools/Resources:

MN Original video clip, pencil, paper



Video Clip: <http://www.tpt.org/mn-original/video/minnesota-original-moheb-soliman/>

Activity

- 1) Watch the segment and discuss:
 - a. Moheb Soliman says that being in the natural world can be a “radical experience”, what does he mean by this?
 - b. Mr. Soliman’s poems have been installed on five different parks around the Great Lakes - why? What purpose does the poetry have in those parks?
- 2) Brainstorm:
 - a. Think of one place that means something to you, as Mr. Soliman says, an “authentic encounter” in a natural space.
 - i. Try to think of a place outside in nature and not inside a building; however if your special place is inside a building, that will work as well.
- 3) Write a poem, it can be a structured poem, spoken word, a haiku, any form of poetry you wish - but write about that one special place you brainstormed about
 - a. Imagine that you could write a poem about that place to help capture its meaning to you to be shared and experienced by others who visit that place.
- 4) Share poem with someone, do not tell them where the place is until after the poem is finished.

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