

Unit Guide

Experience, Feel, Write, Repeat **Ekphrastic Engagement in the First Grade Classroom**

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This unit on Ekphrastic Poetry for 1st grade can be taught over many lessons and can be done at various times during the year. Once a poetic structure is learned, students can practice during morning work, writing time, and or during centers. The goal of this unit is to have students create their own works of poetry based upon various works of art. We will start by reading and or listening to poetry. When students have a basic understanding of poetry we will work on writing our own. Some of my students have a difficulty in getting their thoughts down on paper, to help scaffold, I will provide examples of the poem structure we are using and provide a class generated word bank for students to use. For my beginning writers, those still struggling with letter formation and using inventive spelling, their poems can be scribed so that their ideas can be shared with the class. Student poems will have the additional goal of helping my students to develop empathy, an important component of being human. Students will then share out their work using various platforms including an end of year gallery walk and poetry reading.