

Little Incident starter technique Vodcast Lorraine Marwood

Introduction

This vodcast was filmed to encourage teachers and students to write poetry and encourage the entering of the Dorothea Mackellar poetry competition.

Lorraine Marwood is a children's poet and takes workshops in poetry for all age levels. This technique was developed over many years and is designed to demonstrate the main points of good poetry and encourage poetry writing in a fun and enjoyable encounter. The extra bonus is instant feedback and finished gems!

I like to start a poetry session reading poems from contemporary collections for children- in this instance poems from 'A Ute picnic and other Australian poems' and 'Note on the door and other poems about family'. Walker books Lorraine Marwood

Materials needed- *little portraits of people doing ordinary living actions from the newspaper or from magazines. I laminate them to use again.*

These little incident poems are only 5 lines long and about 12 or 14 words.

They demonstrate the way poetry is short concise, concentrated dose and not like prose.

I like to demonstrate at this age level that poems are structured a bit like a ladder a few words on each rung going down the page like that and not across.

They use strong words- naming and action words.

They use details- for example instead of food- say lasagne and mashed pumpkin- or whatever the particular tastes.

Try and not use the same word twice.

Try and use a strong line to finish with – like a flourish, like a satisfying sigh.

Here is the scaffolding for the technique

I will write each line of my poem underneath in italics as an example.

First line

One action word(verb)

Run

Second Line

What's happening (two or three words)

bulls chasing

Third Line

Where the action is happening

down the street

Fourth Line

What else is happening, look closer, it might be a detail you've missed

faces worried

Fifth and last line

something that surprises you that you haven't seen before- to finish off the poem

rampaging feet

Read through your poem- reading it aloud often helps.

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