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Assignment 8.1 Poetry Collections and Anthologies

LSC 5505 Core Resources

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April 13, 2008

A. Collections

Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems

1. Glenn, Mel. Jump Ball: A Basketball Season in Poems. New York: Lodestar Books, 1997.

2. lesson ideas section: **conflict resolution, team sports, and physical education**

Conflict Resolution: Examining different points of view. “Mary Beth Hoskins” is poem written from the point of view of a coach’s wife who resents the time her husband spends coaching the basketball team. In advisory group, this poem could be paired with the poem “Greg Hoskins, Coach” to show two different points-of-view about the same subject. This could be an exercise in modeling how to resolve conflict.

Physical Education/Team sports: various poems about teamwork and the struggles of conflicts between team players, teachers, and their families could be used creatively with team sports and in physical education classes.

3. list of 3 *From Cover to Cover* qualities and examples from one or more poems

Qualities: alliteration, repetition, free verse, word placement in concrete poetry

Example from one or more poems: **Alliteration** is found in “Garrett James” (p. 55) when he writes, “commercial zone... combat zone... I can’t hear the crowd or the coach.”

In “Roman Kiranova” (p. 122), the line “I do not see her face” is **repeated** three times, offering a **repetitive rhythm** to this free verse poem.

All of Glenn’s poems are written in **free verse**, having broken away from metrical conventions. The poet uses **concrete poetry** in “Basketball Pulse” where lines are used to show the lines drawn on a basketball court, and words bounce up and down on the page like a basketball.

The Inner City Mother Goose

1. Merriam, Eve. The Inner City Mother Goose. David Diaz, ill. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996. Estate of Eve Merriam.

2. lesson ideas section: **Earth Week, Earth Day, Nutrition and Health**

The title of this collection is a bit deceiving since “Mother Goose” brings to mind children’s nursery rhymes. This collection, however, is for an older audience. It is a sharp-witted social commentary that deals with themes such as social injustice, prostitution, and inner city poverty. Most every poem could be used in school curriculum be it transportation (“Sing a Song of Subways”, p. 34), television and media (“On TV” p. 38), nuclear power (“This is the Plant”, p. 39), or civil rights and slavery (“Tom”, p. 56).

The poem “Mary, Mary” (p. 16) and “Dump It, Dump It” (p. 54) would be excellent poems to go with school-wide Earth Week or Earth Day. Part of one poem reads, “Mary, Mary, / Urban Mary, / How does your sidewalk grow? / With chewing gum wads/ And cigarette butts....”

“Twinkie, Twinkie” (p. 58) would be a good poem to introduce a unit on nutrition and health, especially with the lines “...need my daily junk food fix.”

3. list of 3 *From Cover to Cover* qualities and examples from one or more poems

Qualities: verse, nursery rhymes, poetic sound, simile

These verses based on the Mother Goose nursery rhymes would fall under the definition of “**verse**” which Horning describes as “rarely stray[ing] from its regular structure.” However, these verses, though humorous at times, are not light in their subject matter.

These poems follow the pattern of **nursery rhymes** in their structure, emulating the style and rhythm of Mother Goose. However, Merriam’s poems are not meant for nursery school children: the subjects are adult, even using the line “Up, motherfuckers, against the wall” in “Boys and Girls Come Out to Play” (p. 22). In addition, though Mother Goose rhymes began in the oral tradition, Merriam’s poems were first shared in 1969 via the printed page.

Horning writes, “**A good poem sounds natural, even when it rhymes.**” However, the humor of Merriam’s poems is in her sharp deviation from the expected. In creating poems that don’t sound natural and that end in a surprising twist, she adds humor to serious subjects. Examples of this would be “There Was a Crooked Man” which reads, “There was a crooked man / And he did very well” (p. 57) and “There Was a Man” which states “There was a man of our town / and he was wondrous wise / He moved away” (p. 57).

Example from one or more poems:

Merriam uses **simile** in “Man of Words” (p. 52) when she writes “a man of words and not of deeds / Is like a garden full of weeds...”

B. Anthologies

I Feel a Little Bit Jumpy Around You

1. Nye, Naomi Shihab and Paul B. Janeczko, editors. I Feel a Little Bit Jumpy Around You. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1996.

2. organizational theme and lesson ideas

This anthology of poems presented in pairs offers thoughtful insight into the **politics of gender**. It reveals how women and men approach the same subject in similar and different ways, and how they perceive the world around them.

Two particular poems stand out as possible connections to a school-wide curriculum. “The Pyramid of Khufu” by Harryette Mullen (p. 125) speaks of the sand, camels and mirages viewed as the speaker climbs an Egyptian summit. This poem would offer a creative element to introduce a **social studies unit on Egypt**.

“For My Father’s Mother Who Has Alzheimer’s” by M. Eliza Hamilton (p. 58) is a moving poem about cultural identity and the importance of remembering our heritage. The speaker says,

. . . The language of my people exists

Between Guinea, the Middle Passage, and the reservations.

The history of my people is in its language.

The memory of my people has not been found. . .”

This poem would be a useful tool to use **in social studies units that cover slavery, civil rights, and Native American studies.** It could also be used in units that cover subjects that deal with **cultural identity and the study of family trees.**

3. tool used and keywords found

Wilson Web

Middle/Junior High Core Collection

Poetry/Collections, Non-Fiction

Children's poetry, American Women authors.

Children's poetry, American Male authors.

Women

Men

Young adult poetry.

Titlewave: Subjects: Poetry, Relationships

4. list of 3 *From Cover to Cover* qualities and examples from one or more poems

The poem “The Secretary Chant” by Marge Piercy (p. 206) is an **extended metaphor**, comparing a secretary to a machine whose only function is to produce, produce, produce, even to the point of giving birth to a baby Xerox machine.

Another poem, “Everyone” by Shuntaro Tanikawa (trans. Harold Wright, p. 181) uses **repetition** of the line “ha ha ha” to demonstrate the sarcastic tone of laughing at tragedy and the efforts taken to keeping secrets hidden.

“Prime” by Chanda Bloch (p. 11) uses **sensory imagery** in the lines “the blanket I stroked to sleep” and “sky veined with summer lightning” and “we wiped the kisses from our cheeks with the backs of our hands.”

On the Wings of Peace

1. Hamanaka, Sheila. On the Wings of Peace. New York: Clarion Books, 1995.

2. organizational theme and lesson ideas

This anthology is “dedicated to the memory of the people who died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki” (book jacket). It is a collection of writers, poets, and illustrators who write on themes of injustice, violence, and war and how they affect children.

It is a call for peace and presents a convincing case that we must find alternatives for settling disputes other than the use of violence and war.

3. tool used and keywords found

Tool: Titlewave *Keywords found:* Peace Literary Collections *Interest Level:* YA

(Note: this book is out of print. How sad! It's such a lovely collection!)

Tool: Wilson Web *Keywords found:* Peace / Children's literature / Young adult poetry.

4. list of 3 *From Cover to Cover* qualities and examples from one or more poems

List: Alliteration, song, musical notation, and broad range of cultures.

The use of **alliteration** in “Rabbit Foot: a Story of the Peacemaker” can be found in the lines “common culture” and “coming from a clearing” and “snake swallowed.”

The **song** “Walk Together Children” by Ashley Bryan (p. 122-123) is accompanied by a clear **musical notation** that is legible and easy-to-read. The words are “conveniently placed so that it is possible to follow along if one is playing or singing the song aloud” (Horning 85).

This collection hosts the poetry and illustrations of a **broad range of cultures** such as Latin American, Native American, Japanese, Palestinian, Persian, Portuguese, and Iraq, to name a few. Two poems that stand out as demonstrating various cultures are “The Lakota Pipe Ceremony” and “Letters from Baghdad”.

Works Cited

Horning, Kathleen T. From Cover to Cover. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1997.