

Lisa Jarnot's "Ode"

CONTENT AREA & GRADE LEVEL: Poetry/Literature, Upper Level High School

TIME: One class period

LESSON FOCUS: Students will be introduced to the ode as a poetic form by listening to and discussing Lisa Jarnot's poem "Ode".

STANDARDS ASSESSED:

Colorado Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.

As students in grades 9-12 extend their knowledge, what they know and are able to do includes:

- using fictional, dramatic, and poetic techniques in writing;
- experimenting with stylistic elements such as voice, tone, and style.

Colorado Reading and Writing STANDARD 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

As students in grades 9-12 extend their knowledge, what they know and are able to do includes:

- recognizing an author's point of view, purpose, and historical and cultural context;

Colorado Reading and Writing STANDARD 6: Students read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.

As students in grades 9-12 extend their knowledge, what they know and are able to do includes:

- reading, responding to, and discussing novels, poetry, short stories, non-fiction, content-area and technical material, plays, essays, and speeches;
- using literary terminology accurately, such as theme, mood, diction, idiom, perspective, style, and point of view;

ASSESSMENT: Monitor student discussion and writing for accurate use of literary terminology, and understanding of author's point of view, purpose and historical and cultural context. Students revise and/or write new odes to share in class. What sort of feedback will teacher/other students give about the new odes.

MATERIALS/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- *The Handbook of Poetic Forms*. ed. Ron Padgett;
- "Ode" by Lisa Jarnot – Naropa Archive reading [Audio:
http://www.naropa.edu/archive/audio/jarnot_lisa_99p015_clip_ode.mp3]
- "Ode" text found in *Ring of Fire* by Lisa Jarnot.

Students will have read several odes before this lesson begins.

POSSIBLE PROCEDURES

1. **Do Now (5 minute period of writing in journal):** Have students make a list of things they like. Items on your list may include but are not limited to people, places, objects, emotions, activities, and ideas.

2. **Brief class discussion:** Read about and discuss the ode form of poetry.
3. **Introduce** Lisa Jarnot and her poem “Ode”. Students will underline details they notice in the poem while listening to Jarnot read it.
4. **Play poem.**
Audio: http://www.naropa.edu/archive/audio/jarnot_lisa_99p015_clip_ode.mp3
5. **Discussion:**
Is Jarnot’s poem an ode? Why/why not?
Who/what is her ode about?
What details/specific language did you notice?
What is similar/different between her poem and the examples of odes we read at the beginning of class? (see the *The Handbook of Poetic Forms* for good examples)
6. **In class writing:** Referring students to the list of things they like or dislike, have them create their own ode.
7. Share writing as a class or in small groups.
8. **HOMEWORK/FOLLOW UP LESSONS:** Students will revise and/or write new odes to share in class.

By Rachel McKeen, Bushwick Community High School, New York