

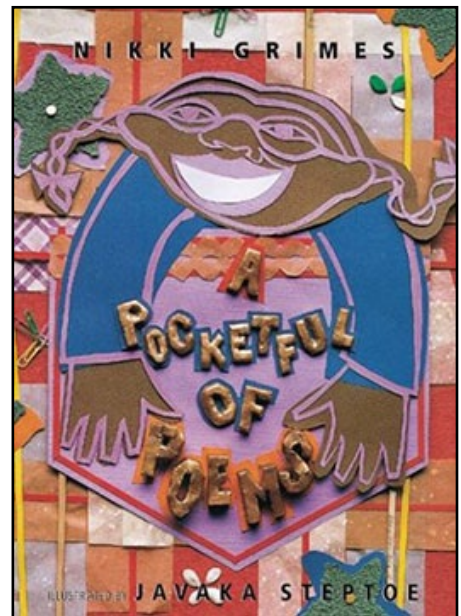
Multiple Intelligence Projects

A Pocketful of Poems

written by Nikki Grimes

illustrated by Javaka Steptoe

Clarion Books, 2001



Verbal/ Linguistic

Write haiku, of course! Remember that the 17-syllable format is sometimes altered a bit for modern writers, but that trying to stick as close to the format as you can. One technique to really make a haiku work is called personification.

Personification is when you make an object (like a stick or a lamp) do what people do. Ms Grimes uses it in several of her haiku like this one:

Mama's window box –
purple flowers shout the news.
Finally – it's spring!

The flowers shout is the personification part. On the worksheet below, try to write some images using personification. Then, take your favorite and write at least two haiku.

Logical/ Mathematical:

Haiku word problems!

1. If you have four haiku poems how many syllables do you have total?
2. If you take seven haiku poems and add a tanka poem (another type of Japanese poetry using 31 syllables: 5-7-5-7-7), then divide by the number of students in your class, how many syllables do you have?
3. Check out the end papers of *A Pocketful of Poems*. See how many letters are on the page? Now, without counting them one by one, count one row across and one row down. Multiply together. That should give you a good estimation of the number of letters on the page. If you're curious: check your answer!

Visual/ Spatial:

Create a collage of course! Javaka Steptoe uses cut paper and found objects to create the remarkable illustrations for the book. Choose one of the haiku you wrote and create a collage of your own to illustrate. Be creative! Look at old things in new ways-this is, after all, what poets do too!

Body/ Kinesthetic:

Memorize your favorite haiku from *A Pocketful of Poems* and recite it in front of the class. Be sure to practice at home and remember to speak loud enough for all to hear.

Musical/ Rhythmic:

Using small hand instruments (or even fingers on desks), tap out the rhythm of the haiku as your teacher reads the book aloud. Notice how it sounds like a song, and talk about how poetry and songs are very similar in their use of rhythm and stresses.

Interpersonal:

Group Project:

In pairs, create a poster about one of the following topics:

- Japanese Haiku
- Modern Haiku
- Collage Art
- Personification
- How a picture book is created
- Harlem
- Nikki Grimes
- Javaka Steptoe

Intrapersonal:

Write a journal about what you learned during the unit about *A Pocketful of Poems*. Answer these questions: What specifically did you learn? What were you surprised by? What was your favorite part of the project? Creating the collage was ...