

Rhapsody with Raptors Lesson Plan

Overview:

- Raptor lesson: Use structured paired brainstorming and structured note taking
- Mystery Metaphor Box activity
- Examine talons and generate lists of “Bird Words”
- Find examples of figurative language in poetry and children’s literature
- Compose a cinquain poem

Details:

1. With a partner, brainstorm a list of things you already know about raptors, such as owls, hawks, eagles, and ospreys. Then, share your list with another pair. Fill in the note taking chart during the raptors mini-lesson.
2. Look at Common Core standards. What is figurative language? Go over examples. Read the scaffolded Raleigh’s Story.
3. Mystery Metaphor/Simile Box Activity: a. Cliché or Clever? Consider making unusual comparisons b. Select an object from the box. How could this object represent what a raptor looks like, what a raptor can do, or how it can do it? (Items include a cotton ball, sandpaper, hook, peeler, airplane, fringe, straw, can opener, binoculars, black marble) c. Share
4. Four Square Activity: With a partner, generate lists of “Bird Words.” Pass out talons and feathers. a. Brainstorm a list of adjectives that describe what talons and feathers LOOK like and FEEL like (such as shape, color, texture) b. Brainstorm a list of nouns that share physical characteristics with raptors (such as plane, knife, hook) c. Brainstorm a list of verbs related to raptors (such as stalk, grasp, kill) d. Brainstorm a list of adverbs related to raptors (such as fiercely, stealthily, powerfully) Then, create a simile or metaphor for one or more of your Bird Words. For example: A sharp, curved talons could be compared to a _____. Share.
5. Finding figurative language: Choose an excerpt from poetry, children’s literature, or Raleigh’s Story. a. Look for examples of similes, metaphors, alliteration, personification, and onomatopoeia; Highlight them. b. Share
6. In small groups, write a Cinquain poem. Share.
7. Unpack the lesson.