

LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Reading aloud, Choral reading, Marking the Text, Visual/Auditory Prompt

My Notes

Learning Targets

- Support interpretive claims with textual evidence.
- Collaboratively develop criteria for evaluating how texts treat themes or topics.

Before Reading

1. While the Transcendentalist movement occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century, it fundamentally influenced American thinking by giving expression to many ideas, values, and themes that continue to be explored in literature today. How might Transcendentalism connect to a modern song?

During Reading

2. As you read the poems, mark the texts for ideas that connect to transcendental thinking. How do the following three pieces relate to the core tenets of Transcendentalism?

Poetry

In the Depths of Solitude

by Tupac Shakur

I exist in the depths of solitude

Pondering my true goal

Trying to find peace of mind

And still preserve my soul

- 5 Constantly yearning to be accepted

And from all receive respect

Never compromising but sometimes risky

And that is my only regret

A young heart with an old soul

- 10 How can there be peace

How can I be in the depths of solitude

When there are two inside of me

This Duo within me causes

The perfect opportunity

- 15 To learn and live twice as fast

As those who accept simplicity

After Reading

3. A genre is a style of literature or art with specific characteristics, features, and format. These generalizable characteristics are called **genre conventions**. What conventions characterize poetry as a broad literary genre? How does Shakur use these conventions in “In the Depths of Solitude”?

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Genre conventions are the essential features and format that characterize a particular genre.

Poetry

REMEMBER

by Joy Harjo

Remember the sky that you were born under,
know each of the star's stories.

Remember the moon, know who she is. I met her
in a bar once in Iowa City.

- 5 Remember the sun's birth at dawn, that is the
strongest point of time. Remember sundown
and the giving away to night.

Remember your birth, how your mother struggled
to give you form and breath. You are evidence of

- 10 her life, and her mother's, and hers.

Remember your father. He is your life also.

Remember the earth whose skin you are:
red earth, black earth, yellow earth, white earth
brown earth, we are earth.

- 15 Remember the plants, trees, animal life who all have their
tribes, their families, their histories, too. Talk to them,
listen to them. They are alive poems.

Remember the wind. Remember her voice. She knows the
origin of this universe. I heard her singing Kiowa war

- 20 dance songs at the corner of Fourth and Central once.

Remember that you are all people and that all people are you.

Remember that you are this universe and that this universe is you.

Remember that all is in motion, is growing, is you.

Remember that language comes from this.

- 25 Remember the dance that language is, that life is.

Remember.

My Notes

GRAMMAR & USAGE

Imperative Mood

“Remember” uses the imperative mood, in which sentences state commands or instructions, often with an implied “you” but no explicit subject. Consider using imperatives to construct your own “how to” poem related to pursuing happiness.

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

Harjo combines anaphora with the imperative mood, repeating “Remember” as a command or instruction. As you analyze the effect of these rhetorical choices, consider three elements of how Harjo uses this approach:

1. who's speaking to whom
2. the effect of the imperative (tone, mood, theme)
3. the degree of authority the speaker has

My Notes

Poetry

A Light Exists in Spring

by Emily Dickinson

A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period –
When March is scarcely here

5 A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels.

It waits upon the Lawn,

10 It shows the furthest Tree
Upon the furthest Slope you know
It almost speaks to you.
Then as Horizons step
Or Noons report away

15 Without the Formula of sound
It passes and we stay –
A quality of loss
Affecting our Content
As Trade had suddenly encroached

20 Upon a Sacrament.

After Reading

Creative/Reflective Writing Prompt: Write an original poem exploring your beliefs about the pursuit of happiness, emulating one of the three poems explored in this unit: use Tupac’s alternating rhyme scheme, Harjo’s imperative mood, or Dickinson’s lyric approach. Be sure to:

- Link to at least one of the Transcendental ideals you’ve identified in this unit.
- Consider the criteria you have identified with your classmates as you craft your text.
- Incorporate the genre conventions of the model you emulate.

Check Your Understanding

Annotate your poem to explain what genre conventions you have used.