

POETRY HALFWAY HOUSE...

Importance of NEON WORDS!

- Tell students that you are going to DICTATE a poem to them. The poem will be dictated precisely, you will tell them when to use punctuation, capital letters and when to miss a line.
- Explain that certain words have been BLANKED out. When you come across a blanked word students are to leave a space.
- Dictate poem to students.
- Give ten minutes to insert own words (only one word per blank) into poem. Suggest that perhaps some of these blanks are NEON WORDS, moments of clarity within the poem...
- Read poem again, go around room asking for words as you reach blanks.
- Once finished, read poem, this time with original words added.

Looking at idea that a single word can alter the direction of a poem, create a different meaning.

The Tryst.

In the early evening rain
I leave the vault
and walk into the city

of _____, and stand. (lamentations)
I think it is September, _____. (love)

Where are you, Josephine?
It is one minute until you must appear,
_____ in a grass-green serape, (draped)

_____ than most people, (shorter)
more _____, _____. (beautiful) (baleful)

Pressing a hand to my _____, (heart)
slipping into my _____ pocket (famished)
the _____, the silver _____. (elixir) (**needle!!!**)

James Tait (American poet)