

2W.4b: LESSON PLAN

Title

Perspective (2) and Dialogue

Subject

Writing

Grade

6-12

Time

60 minutes

Purpose

After viewing a virtual tour of the fresco, students practice making connections between poetry and imagery and write a dialogue between two fresco images, exploring different perspectives.

Key Questions

1. What are your thoughts while looking at Pantry Secrets? Why do you think the artist titled this piece Pantry Secrets? What do you think the artist wants you to think about?
2. How does our ekphrastic writing differ from the poem "Nation of Domination" by Jose Olivarez?
3. What happens when visual art is paired with poetry? How do they complement or distract from each other?
4. How does your perspective differ from other students? How may your perspective differ from the artist's?

Values

Creativity, Communication, New Perspectives

Materials & Resources

[Virtual tour of the fresco](#); Handout 1 (Pantry Secrets image); Handout 2 (poems by Jose Olivarez); Podcast clip [Jose Olivarez reads Nation of Domination](#); Setting prompts

Activities

1. Instruct students to look at Handout #1 "Pantry Secrets" and to respond to key question #1.
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2. Prepare and play the podcast clip [Jose Olivarez reads Nation of Domination](#) (Poet reads from 3:33 min.-4:33 min). Ask students to respond to the question: How do the collage and the poem relate? How do they complement or distract from each other?
 3. Provide time for students to explore the virtual tour of the fresco. Pair students in groups of two. Option for In-person or online.
 - a. In person: With their partners, students will use a frame to isolate a single image or section of the fresco. As a pair, they should choose and agree on two images they would like to use. While one student holds the frame, the other will take a photo (cell phones permitted during this part of the session). The frames are used as a tool to help “zoom in” or isolate images.
 - b. Online: In groups of two, students will explore the fresco together on a computer to select and take a screenshot of the two images they would like to use.
 4. With their partners, students should each choose one of their images. Each student will write from the perspective of the fresco image they chose. Ask students to complete Creative Writing Prompt #1 individually: If your image and your partner's images were to meet, what would that look like? Describe the interaction and include dialogue.
 5. Then, ask students to complete Creative Writing Prompt #2 with their partner: Give each pair of students a setting from the Setting Prompts below. Students will work together to write the new situation between the two images, including dialogue.

Setting Prompts:

- The images/figures are visiting a zoo
- The images/figures are on a public bus
- One image/figure is teaching the other image/figure how to do something
- One image/figure has mistaken the other for someone else
- The images/figures are neighbors who are having a disagreement
- The images/figures are on a blind date
- One image/figure is trying to tell the other a joke or story
- The images/figures are lost
- One image/figure is the parent/family member(s) of the other
- The image/figures are best friends
- The image/figures meet at a fast food restaurant

6. Students may use the remainder of class to read their dialogue between images aloud. This may continue in another class time to allow all students to share.

Evaluation/Assessment

Feedback: Take this survey to share your feedback on this lesson plan; formative and summative assessment (e.g. Edutopia; CRLT); state assessment tools.

Handout 1

The following poems and collage were created for Victoria Martinez's solo show, *Celestial House*, at Loyola University Museum of Art (LUMA) as odes to the homes and Chicago neighborhoods the artists grew up in. All collages are by Victoria Martinez and all poems are by José Olivarez. (Exhibit: July 3, 2018 – October 20, 2018)



Victoria Martinez
Pantry Secrets, 2018,
collage, 15 × 10
pulgadas.

Handout 2

Nation of Domination

my mom hugs me & wants me to stay. i have my foot
on the pedal. a fake gold chain on my neck. i confess
i'm a sucker. i never want magicians to reveal their secrets.
i want to live in the unknowing where everything is possible.
my mom dances with me to Los Bukis. she thinks this makes
me her baby still. perspective is a magic trick. i hit my brother
with the Rock Bottom & i bet you can guess what i leave out.
ask Farooq if you need a hint. the brain is full of magic
i don't understand. no one signs up to take a dive. in wrestling,
there's a team of writers who decide who wins and who loses.
the metaphor is obvious. my mom wasn't born to play the role
of mom, i don't care how many baby dolls she played with.
i dance with my mom to Los Bukis & you're a fool
if you believe it's her son she's trying to hold on to

José Olivarez

[José Olivarez reads "Nation of Domination"](#)

Rock Bottom: A wrestling
move of "The Rock"

Farooq: A wrestler

Los Bukis: A Mexican
musical group who
recorded their debut
album in 1975. "Los
Bukis" is an indigenous
Yaqui word that means
"the kids."

now i'm bologna

my parents were born from a car. they climbed out
& kissed the car on its cheek. my grandmother.
to be a first generation person. 23 and Me reports
i am descendant of pistons & drive trains. 33%
irrigation tools. you are what you do. my first job
was in a lunch meat factory. now i'm bologna.
it's not so bad being a person. the front seat of a car
is more comfortable than the trunk. when they were babies
my parents dreamt of being Lamborghinis. not
people. you are what your children grow up to do.
if i put my parents' names on papers, what happens?
the answer is no comment. the answer is quién sabe.
the answer is yo no sé, pero no es abogado.
people are overrated. give me avocados.

José Olivarez

1.1.1.1 About This Poem (now i'm bologna)

"I wrote this poem as part of a collaborative series with the visual artist Victoria Martinez. Victoria's *Celestial House* series plays with visual elements of nostalgia. She takes pieces of old dresses she loves and gives them a new life via collage. I tried to write a poem that worked like a collage does. I wanted to make nostalgia nauseating."

—José Olivarez