

Lesson 2

Water Expressions

How can people identify with water through written expressions or poetic quotes?
What water words are associated with quotes and what emotions are evoked?

GOAL To be moved by differing interpretations and reactions to water.

OBJECTIVES Students will:

- ✓ read a variety of quotes in classroom
- ✓ connect particular water words with poetic expressions
- ✓ answer questions about the quote
- ✓ create a poster and conduct presentation to class

MATERIALS butcher block paper for 17 quotes, poster board for 5 groups, markers, pencils, paper for writing answers to questions

CORE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

- Language Arts 1(1,9,10,12), 2(4)
- Science 8(1-3)
- Arts 1(1-3)

VOCABULARY quotations, pollution, conservation, ecosystem, watershed

PROCEDURES

1. Prior to students arriving in classroom, have “quotes” written on construction paper, butcher block paper or any other type of available paper. (*quotations are listed at the end of lesson.*) Hang paper with expressions around classroom for students to see upon arrival to class.
2. Begin by having students read quotes silently. Discuss with students that sometimes poetry, quotations and expressions evoke memories, associations, and/or emotions.
3. Ask if they identify with any of the expressions. Have volunteers share their reason(s) why they chose particular expressions.
4. Separate students into groups and have the each group choose one quote.
5. Once they have decided on a quote, have students pick one or more of the following word(s) that best fit their expression:
 - a. pollution
 - b. watershed
 - c. conservation
 - d. water cycle
 - e. uses of water
 - f. ecosystem

6. Have student groups complete the following:
 - a. Define the word chosen.
 - b. Explain the reason(s) why the particular word(s) was chosen to correspond with quote.
 - c. What is their interpretation of quote? Are any thoughts, emotions or memories evoked?
 - d. Who wrote the quote? If it is a person, discover who that person is. If it is a cultural saying or proverb, what does it suggest about that culture?
 - e. Discuss whether sentences evoke particular images.
 - f. Write the expression in the middle of a poster board. Draw interpretations and present to class.
7. Have individuals write their interpretations of a favorite quotation from the list provided.

EXTENSIONS

1. Have the class visit a stream, brook, river, or other body of water on the Farmington Watershed. Have them sit quietly. Have students close their eyes and listen to the sounds. When they open their eyes, have them use observational skills to examine how the sunrays reflect upon the water, the surrounding land and vegetation area, and any other observations. Have students write their thoughts. Have them describe the setting and their reaction to it.
2. Have students write a quotation about water.

RESOURCES

<http://members.tripod.com/~copper80/quotes.html>

GLOSSARY

conservation - preservation or restoration from loss, damage, or neglect

ecosystem - an ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit

pollution - the state of being contaminated with harmful substances

quotations - an explicit reference or allusion in an artistic work to a passage or element from another, usually well-known work

watershed - a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different water systems

SAMPLE WATER QUOTATIONS

1. *"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."* - *American Indian Saying*
2. *"Filthy Water can not be washed."* - *African proverb*
3. *"A river seems a magic thing, a magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself, for it is from the soil, both from its depth and from its surface that a river has a beginning."* - *Laura Gilpin*
4. *"I came where the river ran over stones; My ears knew an early joy. And all the waters of all the streams sang in my veins that summer day."* - *Theodore Roethke, The Waking, 1948*

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5. "The river moves from land to water to land, in and out of organisms, reminding us what the native peoples have never forgotten; that you cannot separate the land from the water or the people from the land." - Lynn Noel, *Voyages Canada's Heritage Rivers*
6. "To trace the history of a river or raindrop, as John Muir would have done, is also to trace the history of the soul, the history of the mind descending and arising in the body. In both we constantly seek and stumble, our divinity, which, like the cornice feeding the lake and spring becoming a waterfall, feeds, spills, falls and feeds itself over and over again. – Gretel Ehrlich, *Sisters of the Earth*
7. "It is water, in every form and at every scale, that saturates the mind. All the water that will be is, right now." - National Geographic, October 1993
8. "Any river is really the summation of the whole valley. To think of it as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part." - Hall Boland, *This Hill, This Valley*
9. "We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one." - Jacques Cousteau
10. "For many of us, water simply flows from a faucet, and we think little about it beyond this point of contact. We have lost a sense of respect for the wild river, for the complex workings of a wetland, for the intricate web of life that water supports." - Sandra Postel, *Lost Oasis: Facing Water Scarcity*
11. "... Good luck and Good work for the happy mountain raindrops, each one of them a high waterfall in itself, descending from the cliffs and hollows of the clouds to the cliffs and hollows of the rocks, out of the sky-thunder into the thunder of the falling rivers."
John Muir, *My First Summer in the Sierra*
12. "The noblest of the elements is water"
Pindar, 476 B.C.
13. "If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water" - Loren Eiseley, Anthropologist
14. "You could not step twice into the same rivers; for other waters are ever flowing on to you."
- Heraclitus of Ephesus
15. "When you drink the water, remember the spring." - Chinese Proverb
16. "When the well is dry, we learn the worth of water." - Benjamin Franklin
17. "Children of a culture born in a water-rich environment, we have never really learned how important water is to us. We understand it, but we do not respect it." - William Ashworth, *Nor Any Drop to Drink*, 1982
18. "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." - Aldo Leopold