

ARTFUL THINKING – WORD SPLAT POEM

The students each get a word splat sheet (or use their copy book). The class spend ten full minutes looking really carefully at the chosen piece of art. You can choose to use our guided video or print the artwork out. Encourage the students not to speak until the ten minutes are up, '**STARE BEFORE YOU SHARE**'. During the ten minutes we want the students to '**LOOK, THINK & WONDER**'. These are three important aspects to the lesson. When we look slowly, more learning happens. We notice more details. The aim is to become engaged and captivated.

On the splat sheet the students should aim to write at least ten words. These could be any words that come to mind when looking at the artwork.

We have three different word splat sheets available.

A blank word splat: simply to record their words and ideas.

A sensory word splat: this would be to encourage them to use their senses and imagine what they would hear, see, smell and taste.

And an adjective and noun word splat.

The goal is to observe the artwork, record thoughts, interpret and then share.

For this lesson we want the students to use their word splat to create a poem. Before doing the poem the teacher could have a short discussion about the painting and why they chose the ten words. Taking their ten words we want them to create a poem.

Asking questions like 'what makes you say that?' encourages the students to use logic, explanation and interpret their thoughts. It is an opportunity for the students to work on their describing, questioning and investigative skills.

Suggested questions and phrases the teacher might say:

What's going on in this painting?

Who might the people be?

What might they be doing?

What makes you say that?

What, why, how, who?

Describe that for us.

Try to keep open ended questions. Request reasoning, encourage curiosity and then reflect.

The students should have a strong role in the conversations.