

Lesson 11: The Poetry Within

What's on for today and why: The narratives in this novel are interspersed with poetry that carry a great deal of meaning and emotion. So today we'll be looking at the poems from the novel and discussing why they were included and what they mean.

What to do:

- 1) Break the students into groups of about three and give them Handout #5. This handout has the five poems from the book rewritten on them. Each group should be assigned one poem to look at (which should mean two groups will be looking at each of the five poems). Give them the entire class period to talk about the poems in groups. Discuss the significance to the novels as a whole, as well as what the poems mean individually.
- 2) On the second day the students will take turns presenting their poem to the class for about five minutes or so. The class should all take notes on each of the poems and ask any questions.
- 3) For homework the students should write a page discussing why the poems were in the novel and how they change the reader's view. They may concentrate on one poem or cite all of them depending on their personal feelings.

How did it go? Some of the students will have had some trouble with reasoning why the poems were put into the novel. But the presentations should be pretty clear and the students will need to listen to one another very well so they can do their homework assignments properly. The homework will keep them thinking about why the poems were in the novel as well as give them some practice writing an argumentative essay. They will be graded on both their presentations as well as their homework assignments so they should take both equally seriously.