



Alex Velozo and Jehan Roberson
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Lesson Plan: Borough Tessellations

Guiding Questions: *How can we see pattern in the art and poetry from our everyday lives? How can we begin to notice the beauty in our everyday places? What are some ways we can look at the materials of everyday life in a new light?*

(Materials needed: pre-cut Butcher paper in four geometric shapes [hexagon, square, rhombus, and trapezoid], pre-cut triangles of construction paper, markers, tape, printed subway poster)

Ritual: The Breath of Life (dedicate it to whoever wakes you up in the morning)

Main Activity: Borough tessellations with poem or song lyrics broken up onto pre-cut shapes

Objective: Encourage the recognition of pattern by marrying shapes with stanzas of a poem to find visual and linguistic patterns

Poem: *Awaking* in New York by Maya Angelou

(everybody then heads back to desks)

Introduction of tile work

Objective: Introduce the materials of “place”, the locations we pass through or by everyday.

Passing out of butcher paper and pre-cut shapes

Encourage students to think about reordering, creating new shapes and new meanings, etc.

Objective: Encourage active noticing— Where do we see these things? Where do you see mosaic? Where would you see a poem like this on the subway?

[In case of extra time/in need of filler- decorate tiles, create mosaic design]

“Silent” Gallery: One student from each borough comes to front of class to present (one at a time)

Objective: Briefly introduce concept of themes of concrete poetry: ask students to make suggestions of how would we read this.



Closing Ritual: The Breath of Life

Multiple Intelligences Addressed:

Visual; Linguistic; Logical-Mathematical; Intrapersonal; Naturalist

Awaking in New York

By Maya Angelou

*Curtains forcing their will
against the wind,
children sleep,
exchanging dreams with
seraphim. The city
drags itself awake on
subway straps; and
I, an alarm, awake as a
rumor of war,
lie stretching into dawn,
unasked and unheeded.*