

Exercise in the subject course – In & Out project

Language by Eva Kätting

A. Tree Poems

A1 Description

In centuries people have written poems about trees. This is a way to inspire groups to create a poem together and to present it as a kind of performance. The participants work in groups of four or five persons. This exercise can be used everywhere, as long as you can find some trees in the area.

A2 Subject aims

The main aim is to create a poem and to find a way to present it in an interesting and entertaining way. Writing poems is not always popular in school, to make it a group activity and to add some physical activity to it, makes it easier and more interesting.

A second aim is to read other poems and especially those about trees and to start a discussion about why people write poems and what they write about.

One aim can also be to observe the trees in the area and to talk about different species and the age of the trees around us.

A3 Preparation

Divide the group into smaller groups and ask them to find a "leader" in each group. The leader is the one to get the instructions from the teacher and to organize the activity in the group. The leaders are then instructed that every group should find an interesting tree and watch it in silence for at least three minutes. After that "the leader" asks every group member to say the first sentence about the tree that comes to her/his mind.

These sentences are then used to create a poem. It is allowed to use the sentence many times and you can also change the order of the words but you are not allowed to add or take away any words.

When the poem is ready the group has to decide how to perform it; singing, dancing, rapping or any other way they might like. Every group performs their poem in front of their tree and they also explain why they chose that particular tree.

A4 Time

Every group needs about twenty minutes to find a tree, write a poem and prepare the performance. How much time you need for instruction and presentations

depends on the size of the group. If you have four to five groups it will take 60 – 90 minutes.

A5 Implementation

This activity can be a starting point for reading and writing poetry. It is easy to find other poems about trees and nature. It can also be part of a project where you find out more about the trees in the area. The groups can take pictures of their tree different times of the year and you can make a book about the trees in the area with both facts and poems, together with the pictures.

A6 Conclusion

This is a language activity that can easily be used as an interdisciplinary project. By writing a poem together, the participants have to use their language in a creative way but also to cooperate and to do a bit of physical activity together. By listening to other groups they also come to know more about the different trees in the area as well as reflect over different ways to carry out the same task.