

Instructor Resource Guide: Awakening Creativity

The following activities and resources were selected to support classroom instruction and family literacy engagement. In addition to these instructor resources, each book in the collection has three short engagement activities for adults and families.

Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities

- ◆ Explore the books in the *Awakening Creativity* collection by clicking on the book title in the table below.
- ◆ Notice that the books in the collection provide text across a span of reading levels for adults and include books that are engaging for children and families to read together.
- ◆ Access the short, guided activities for each book that offer suggestions for both instructors and families. You may access the activities by clicking on the book title in the table below. The activities are attached to each book.
- ◆ Allow learners individual time to access the application and explore the collection and guided activities.
- ◆ If using the reading collection for the first time, model how the age and language filters work in the application, and how to locate the search function, so books can be easily found.
- ◆ Decide how you will interact with the topic and curated text collection. This resource guide has suggestions to support in-person instruction and offers online resources for instructors and family engagement. Consider using the materials as starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ◆ Use this collection and guide to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners and their families!

Engaging Books for Adults		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>La música que hay en el mundo</i>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	410-600
<i>The Music in the World</i>	Brenda Wolfenbarger	560

<i>News for You: Young Poet Grabs the Spotlight</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	600
<i>News for You: Joven poeta capta los focos</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>Sidewalk Chalk: Poems of the City</i>	Carole Boston Weatherford	NP
<i>Sleep Tight, Tiger</i>	BG Bradford	NP
<i>A veces es brillante</i>	Annie Ruygt	260
<i>Sometimes it's Bright</i>	Annie Ruygt	240
<i>Mi sonido favorito</i>	Karen G. Jordan	410-600
<i>The Sound I Love Best</i>	Karen G. Jordan	470

Activities to Support Instruction

To explore this topic, consider how you will build anticipation, background knowledge, and schema for your learners about topics regarding *awakening creativity*. To do this, consider addressing the following questions with your learners:

- What do you know about poetry? What does this term mean to you?
- Why do you think we celebrate National Poetry month?
- What does the term “creativity” mean to you? What are some examples of how people can be creative?
- How are you creative? Are there new areas you would like to explore?

There are many ways to get your learners thinking, collaborating, and actively engaging with each other. Consider any of the following activities:

- **Philosophical Chairs:** This strategy is great for a whole-class discussion framework. It fosters active listening, speaking skills, and ensures that everyone has a chance to participate in the discussion. This framework can be applied to any topic with any age or grade-level.
- **Pinwheel Discussion:** This framework fosters higher-order thinking, enhances student engagement, and requires students to think in different ways to respond to questions.
- **Gallery Walk:** Write each question onto a large piece of chart paper and hang them up in various spots around the room. Consider playing music as learners circulate at their own pace, reflecting on the questions and generating responses to each by writing directly on the

chart paper. When everyone has had a chance to complete a response to each question, have learners discuss them collaboratively in small groups and then [jigsaw](#) with each other, or have a whole group discussion.

- **Text Graffiti:** This strategy helps learners to activate background knowledge, and foster connections and predictions about texts. It will also foster collaboration and discussion among peers as well as the whole group.

While you read the texts, you will want to support your learners with literacy strategies to foster their learning growth. Consider comprehension skills that learners will need to access the texts within the collection. It will also be important for learners to continue building background knowledge. For example, if learners are reading the text, [News for You: Young Poet Grabs the Spotlight](#), consider having them gather information about the Smithsonian Museum, National Poetry Month, or the women listed in the article. It will also be important for them to have informational context, so consider having them watch short clips of television shows or movies or read short stories to better understand the reading for deeper comprehension. The following resources and templates will help learners build literacy skills and comprehension as they read:

- **Connect / Extend / Challenge:** This strategy will help learners think about the art of poetry and the imagery it provides in challenging and critical ways. Consider having them apply the sentence stems to the poetry and the texts that they read throughout the unit.
- **Cornell Notes:** This strategy provides learners with a template to help them organize their thoughts in a specific way. The structure can be applied to note-taking beyond educational settings because they offer learners a specific purpose for note-taking and reflection.
- **Anchor Charts for Visualization:** This strategy fosters learners' thinking about a text in regard to the five senses. This helps them visualize what is happening in the text, and in turn, builds their comprehension. This strategy can be applied to both literary and expository texts with any content.

Online Resources to Support Instructors

The following resources will help instructors gather more ideas and insights for teaching texts within the *Awakening Creativity* collection:

- **Facing History & Ourselves:** This resource has a plethora of lesson plans and resources for educators to use with learners regarding poetry and creativity. Explore one or explore them all! Every resource on this page is adaptable for learners of all skill levels.

- **Poets.org**: This resource is great for learners of all skills levels and ages. It will provide lesson plans, resources, and essays that will spark the creativity in all learners!
- **ReadWriteThink**: This resource will provide educators with a variety of lesson plans and resources for all types of poems to ignite the creativity in learners of all skills levels and abilities.
- **The J. Paul Getty Museum**: This resource is for educators and families. It provides resources that combine poetry and art that will foster creativity and engage learners' interests.

Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities with Families

These suggestions may be shared directly with adult learners and their families, so they can explore this theme and books together.

- ◆ Choose a book to explore from the *Awakening Creativity* collection.
- ◆ Read and discuss the book with your child. Use *before, during, and after reading* questions to help your child make connections to themselves and to other parts of their life. The following are some examples:
 - **Before Reading**

Look at the front cover with your child. Explore the pictures and text, and ask them:

 - Does this book remind you of anything?
 - What do we already know about _____?
 - What does it mean to be creative?
 - Why do you think it is important to celebrate poetry? Why do you think there is a month to celebrate poetry?
 - **During Reading**
 - If you were in this story, what do you think you would be hearing? Seeing? Tasting? Smelling? Feeling?
 - What has happened to the character(s) so far?
 - Have you been in a situation that is similar, or like, the situation the character in the story is in? What was the same for both of you? What was different?
 - What is the problem this character is experiencing? How do you think it will turn out?
 - What evidence do we know so far from the book?
 - **After Reading**
 - Tell me the story in your own words.

- What would you like to ask the author (or characters) of the book?
 - What did you like most about the story? Why?
 - Would you have done things in a different way than the character in the story did? If so, what would you have done differently?
 - Do you think it was a good ending? What would you have changed?
- ◆ After reading the story, you will notice activities at the bottom of the screen. Explore these activities with your child!