

## **Community-Word Project- TAP Lesson Plan**

**IDEAS: Understanding memory through storytelling and quilting.**

### **Lesson 1**

#### **Theme of Lesson: Expressing Individual Memory in Community**

School/Grade/CT(s): 1st Grade

Teaching artists: Michael Feldman and Noelle Lorraine Williams

#### **Inquiry Question**

How can we use memory activities to teach students how to write and artistically render stories about their own lives?

#### **Opening Ritual**

**Objective:** To center and focus the students and get them to start thinking about how they remember.

#### **Activity Name and Brief Description:**

Getting Grounded and Listening to Ourselves

**(5 minutes)**

-Begin by shaking shekere (African percussion instrument)

- We will ask the students to be seated in a circle, close their eyes, and listen to their breath. We will ask them to think about their morning, what they ate for breakfast, were they in a rush or on time, how they got to school, who they talked to, what they learned, etc.

- We ask the students to stand up. Passing the shekere around the room, each student will make a motion that represents how thinking about the morning makes them feel. Were they tired? Energized? Hungry? Each member of the class and the teachers will mirror the motion.

-Lead students in repeating, "I have an important story to share with you."

#### **Intro Activity:**

**Objective: To demonstrate how Americans use quilts to remember important things and make useful old things by creating art and warmth for their families.**

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Experiencing the Quilt and Making Memory  
(5 minutes)**

Pass the quilt around. Share with students how people used old clothes and pieces of beautiful things to create quilts.

**Main Exercise:**

**Objective: To activate students memories by having them think about something they have lost or found.**

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Writing about your items you lost  
(8 minutes)**

The students return to their tables. In their notebooks, students will be prompted to write in response to the following. One co-teacher will read each question out loud and allow students to write. The other co-teacher will walk around the classroom and monitor progress and encourage:

- What is an item that you lost or found?
- What does it look like?
- How did you feel when you had it?
- How did you feel when you lost it?

**Reflection:**

**Objective: To reflect by sharing memories.**

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Sharing memories and connecting  
(5 minutes)**

The students will partner with another student and share their memory of what they lost or found.

We will ask a few students to share with the class what they learned about the other person.

**Closing Ritual**

**Objective:** Chant

**Activity Name and Brief Description: Will lead students in closing chant.  
(5 mins)**

I have a voice.

My voice is powerful.

My voice can change the world.

**Multiple Intelligences Addressed: Highlight the intelligences used throughout this lesson plan.**

**Multiple intelligences**

**Logical-Mathematical; Visual/Spatial; Linguistic; Bodily-Kinesthetic; Musical, Interpersonal**