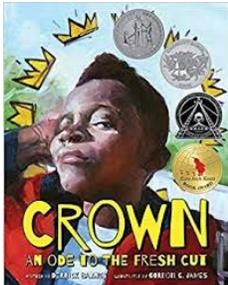


April - National Poetry Month



COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES



ODE Library Guideline	Grade Band: 3-5 Guideline: Information Literacy Organizer: Reading Encouragement
Title	<p>Crown: an Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick Barnes, Ill. by Gordon James Celebrates the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of a barber shop with newly-cut hair.</p>  <p>Themes: self-confidence, haircuts Curricular connections: art, poetry</p>
Resources and Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Book to read aloud, chart paper & markers● 2018 Coretta Scott King Honor for author and illustrator, Newbery Honor, Caldecott Honor● Lesson ideas: http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/02/crown-an-ode-to-the-fresh-cut/● Companion Titles:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Poetry/Odes- Hey Black Child</i> by Useni Eugene Perkins○ <i>Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature</i> by Joyce Sidman● Picture books about confidence and feeling great:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Mr. Tiger Goes Wild</i> by Peter Brown○ <i>After the Fall</i> by Dan Santat○ <i>Ode to My Shoes</i> - see link below to this poem on poetryfoundation.org

Lesson

Pre-reading:

- Introduce today's read aloud, *Crown*, by asking students to think about the title/author/illustrator and cover illustration. Ask what the notice and what the predict the story is about. The should notice and comment on the award medals on the cover. Take the time to briefly tell them what each is and why they are important to the author and the illustrator. Listen to a couple predictions.
- Ask how the author might be using the word "crown." Ask students if they know what the word "ode" means. Tell them it's a type of poem that honors or praises someone or something special to you. The word ode comes from the Greek - aeidein - which means to sing or chant.
- Tell students this is a story about a boy who is feeling his best, he is **self-confident**.
- Using chart paper, make a list of words that describe how you feel when you are confident or feeling your very best. Examples to prompt them: excellent, magnificent,...
- After the close read of *Crown*, you will revisit your list on the chart paper. Read the words you have together and see if students gained new words to describe feeling their best on the chart.

Read aloud - Crown

Discussion questions:

1. How does a trip to the barbershop make protagonist feel? Why?
2. What adjectives would you use to describe the protagonist?
3. What is the most important message of the book?

After reading and discussing the story, go back to the list of words, reread and add new words prompted by the story to describe self-confidence. Revisit the text for further examples from the story, such as "royal."

There are several ways to extend this story - see below. My personal preference would be to model the writing of an ode - "Ode to My Library Book." Remind students that an ode is a poem that pays tribute to a treasured person, object, or event. Try to write an ode about the library or books together and then give the students opportunities to write and illustrate their own ode. Do this during Poetry Month (April) or revisit reading and writing odes during poetry month.

Story extensions:

- **Crown as Mentor Text: An Ode to....** Use *Crown* as inspiration for students' own poetry writing. Discuss the concept of an ode – a poem that pays tribute to a treasure object or event. Note the use of language that reflects strong emotion and high praise. Share some other examples of odes such as "[Ode to My Shoes](#)" by Francisco X. Alarcon and [odes composed by kid writers](#). Students can prepare to write their odes by brainstorming lists of adjectives and verbs that they associate with their chosen subject. These lists can be expanded to phrases and then into a poem that expresses their relationship with the subject. Invite students to share their poems

- **Arts and Observation:** Look at the illustrations. What do you see? Notice how the paint is applied in thick, visible strokes. Notice how the illustrator uses multiple colors to portray items of a single basic color, such as the boy's face on the cover. His skin is dark brown, but James has used purple, yellow, white, blue, yellow, pink and orange, as well as brown to paint the face.*
- **Math, Graphs:** Set up containers each containing one color of stacking cubes ([such as didax](#)) or legos. Attach to each container a photo of a different hairstyle (torn from magazines or printed out). Have everyone select their favorite style and take one cube (lego) from that container. If everyone then stacks their cube with other cubes of the same color, you can then line the stacks up next to each other to get a bar graph. Which style had the most votes? The least? Were the votes pretty evenly spread or were there clear winners and losers?*

audience.*

* ideas from <http://www.theclassroombookshelf.com/2018/02/crown-an-ode-to-the-fresh-cut/>