

**Theme**

Spiritual Worlds

**Story Title**

Old Whistler

**Writing Lesson**

Hero Poem

**National Writing Standards**

4 Communication Skills; 5 Communication Strategies; 6 Applying Knowledge

**6+1 Trait®**

Word Choice, Organization, Ideas, Conventions

***Art Making and Meaning Questions***

Visual Features 1

What lines, shapes, values, and colors did the maker use?

**Objectives**

Students will:

Construct a hero poem based on the character Old Whistler.

Choose their own hero and write a hero poem in honor of the person.

Follow the pattern for a hero poem.

Select descriptive words that evoke visual imagery.

**Preparation**

Prepare copies, transparencies, or a PowerPoint of images from ArtsConnectEd Supplement, or from other sources, that have various kinds of patterns. Make copies of "Old Whistler." Select how you wish to have the story read to the students. They may take turns, you may read the story to them, or make a recording of the story ahead of time and play it to the students as they read along. Create or select examples of hero poems. Make an overhead of the hero poem format.

**Activities**

1.) Ask the students if they can remember a theme song or a phrase associated with a superhero. Have them share some examples with you. As they recite the songs and phrases, ask the students if they are able to get a mental picture of the superhero. Tell them to select the specific words that create a visual image.

2.) Tell the students they are going to read a story about a young boy and an old man, and how the old man influenced the young boy's love for patterns. The old man was a hero to the young boy. Discuss the story with the students and

ask the students who has influenced them in their lives. Do they have any heroes?

3.) Explain that a pattern is a specific way of organizing parts to make a whole. Artists sometimes use patterns to organize lines, shapes, values, and colors. Writers sometimes use patterns to organize parts within a poem. Show the students the pattern for writing a hero poem. The hero poem describes a person or character and focuses on admired person by describing who, what, when, and where. The pattern for a six-line hero poem is:

Line 1: A person you admire (Old Whistler)

Line 2: Three words to describe the person

Line 3: Place, group, or activity identified with the person

Line 4: Three action words (-ing words) for the person

Line 5: When or where the actions take place

Line 6: Thoughts or feelings about the person

4.) Instruct the students to use words that evoke mental images of the person about whom they wish to write.

5.) Direct the students to go back through the story and search for information to complete the pattern of the hero poem.

6.) Assign the students to create a hero poem for their own personal hero using the hero poem pattern.

### **Resources**

Erickson, M. (2005). *Art making and meaning: Understanding through questions*. Tucson, AZ: CRIZMAC.

Moulton, M. R. & Holmes, V. L. (1997). Pattern poems: *Creative writing for language acquisition*. <http://www.njcu.edu/cill/vol4/moulton-holmes.html>

Sebranek, P. Kemper D. & Meyer, V. (2005). *Write source: A book for writing, thinking, and learning*. Wilmington, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

