

Listening Through the Walls: If These Walls Could Speak

Objectives

- Students will engage in poetry and spoken word research.
- Students will write a poem from the perspective of a building in their neighborhood.
- Students engage in cross-curricular learning with ELA/Reading teachers to study poetry.

Grade Levels: 4th-8th

Vocabulary and Terms

Poetry, architecture

Resources

Materials

Paper, drawing/painting supplies

Procedures

1. Allow students time to talk with one another about the buildings in their neighborhood. Which ones have been there the longest? Can you identify any that have changed ownership and become something new? What houses do you know? What style are the homes? What materials are they made out of? Do you see abandoned buildings?
2. Students will choose a building in their neighborhood that they are familiar with or curious about. They will write a poem from the perspective of that building. Some guiding questions: What might the house see every day? What might it hear and smell? What is different about what the building experiences today vs. 50 years ago? How might the building feel?
3. *Note*, museum staff typed the poems onto paper with building outlines. Students could draw the buildings themselves first and write the poem on the inside. The creative potential is endless!



