

“Something Like a Poem”

This writing activity continues to work with children on observation of art, and offers a way to respond in written form. It focuses on movement by asking for a line using an action phrase or verb. It introduces the idea of metaphor as a way to describe what we see to others. This exercise is especially effective with abstract art.

1. Pick a work of art and follow the format with the whole group, as a model for their individual work.
2. Send individuals off into the galleries alone or in pairs to write their own poem from a piece of art of their choice.

Line 1: Give it a title. (Suggest a “feeling word”)

Line 2: Create an action phrase based on what you see (keep the title in mind)

Line 3: Create a metaphor or simile (using “like”) for the action in line 2.

Line 4: Come up with a different title.

Share paintings and poems with each other.

Examples:

Joy

A exploding rainbow of color

Like a kite in a cloudless sky

Freedom

Based on “Alber’s Chain” by Sam Gilliam

Friendship

Cuddling together with a good book

Like two bird in a nest

Imagination

Based on “Two Girls Reading” -Picasso