

English Studies 12 – Spoken Word

Unlock the creative juices, release the muse, warm up the page with your brilliance! All to be completed creatively in your scales journal – feel free to doodle while stretching your noodle!

1. One Word Assignment:

- a. Pick ONE word that is the word that will guide your life from this point on... as grade 12's venturing into the world soon! You must settle on ONE word that captures your emotions, hopes, fears, expectations for self, others, the world etc. Your mantra! A difficult task... *Wisely you will choose.*
- b. Write it in big bold letters in the center of a new page in your journal; around the word, write....
- c. ... some synonyms for the word.
Antonyms? – same site
- d. What is the dictionary, literal meaning of the word? What is your meaning of the word?
- e. What rhymes with the word? – that also connects in a literal or metaphorical way
- f. Doodle an image that captures the word – can be literal or symbolic



2. The Concrete Abstract Poem – on the blog

3. The 'recipe' for a "I am From Poem" which explores identity, memories and place

4. Synesthesia - using one sense to describe another. What seems illogical becomes possible. Prompts:

- a. Choose any colour. Write short lines about the *sound, smell, taste, feel (touch)* of the colour.
-Green tastes like the sweet crunch of cold grapes.
- b. You can write poetry or prose; stay with one colour or jump around to other colours. Practice with different senses.
-I could see the children's laughter floating across the field.
- c. Choose a sound, maybe a sound you hear all the time or one from memory that you will never forget. What is the colour and the shape of that sound? What does the sound *taste, smell, feel* like on your skin?
-The insistet buzzing of the alarm clock stung my skin.
-The sound was utterly dry, desiccated, as if you could crumble it in your hands. - Haruki Murakami

- d. Pick a random topic ((poem below - topic is Love), and write a five lined poem, using and mixing up as many senses of synesthesia as possible:

*There is a **fragrance** in my heart.*

*I **hear** its **textures**.*

They are both rough and smooth.

*I **taste** its colors*

They are rainbow hued.

Linda Shelton

5. Communication Poem – on the Blog!

6. I am...

a. **A poem about life**

- b. Follow the recipe and write three or four quick 'I am...' stanzas of four lines each.

- i. I am (something concrete) to describe emotions, both good and bad...incorporate some metaphor, rhyme, alliteration, and word play like the one we listened to.
- ii. Here is my mine:

Reluctant Words

I am the pen crawling across the paper.

The ink is running out in parts.

Then - suddenly - a blob bursts, smudging the pristine white, and

The words appear in blue or black, turning my insides out.

Kathy Shong

7. **Love is like owning a dog** – Extend the metaphor! Pick three of the following and write three different little poems of around four or five lines each.

- a. Hope is a bird.
- b. Joy is a ballon.
- c. Love is a spell.
- d. Anxiety is a kettle.
- e. Hate is a hurricane.
- f. Fear is a cobweb.

8. The power of action – verbs! Activity from *Writing Down the Bones*

- a. Take a page from your journal and fold the outside of the page back so you only see one side of the page.

- b. Then, on the side of the page that you see, write 10 random nouns – any nouns – DOWN the page:

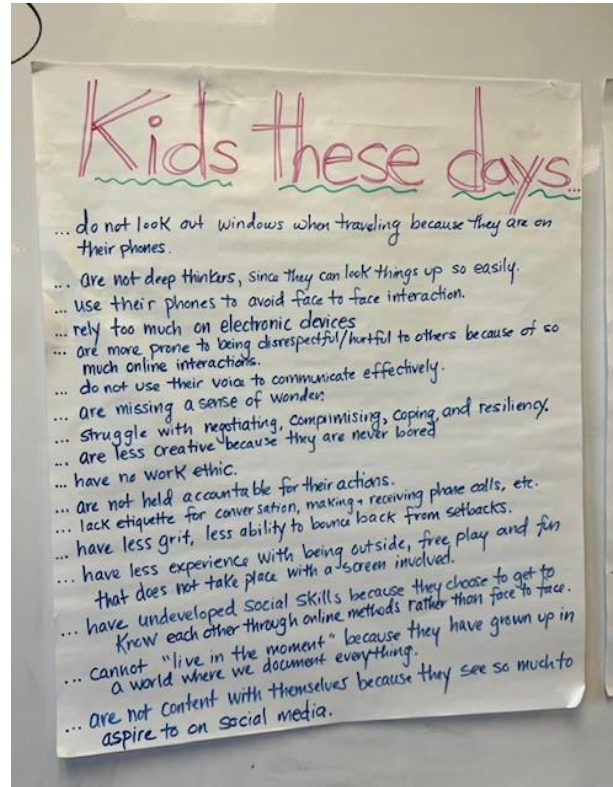
- i. For example: lilacs, horse, mustache, cat, fiddle, muscles, dinosaur, seed, plug, video

- c. Now go to the back side of the folded page, and think of an occupation; for example, a carpenter, doctor, flight attendant, chef. Then list 15 VERBS (down the page) that go with that position: Chef (saute, chop, mince, slice, cut, heat, broil, taste, boil, bake, fry, marinate, whip, stir, scoop)

- d. Now open the page and you should have two columns of words, one down the left and one down the right. Then try joining the nouns with the verbs in a creative way that fits and finish the sentence:
- i. Dinosaurs *marinate* in the earth.
 - ii. The *fiddles boiled* the air...strings vibrating in the heat.
 - iii. The *lilacs sliced* the sky into purple.
- e. Take one or two of your sentences and write a short poem.

9. Kids these days; this was taken from a website regarding some peoples' perceptions or "Single Stories" about the current generation of young people. Read through them and write a series of lines that counter this perception; you do not have to counter each individual statement but counter this portrayal with your own statements.

- a. Begin with:
- i. **ACTUALLY, kids these days.....**



10. What are the moments in your life where/when you would press the 'pause' button if you had a magic clicker? A funny moment? Exhilarating? Poignant? Maybe a story?