

Wordsmith (one-sheet)

By Tina Pasadena

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Curriculum developed by Andrew Ramirez

Synopsis: This poem highlights Pasadena’s love for, and difficulties that come with, a writer’s life. Pasadena mixes ornate language with slang in this four stanza ode to writing. Pasadena draws a connection between the importance of writing her own words, as well as soaking up the works of others. As the poem progresses, Pasadena equalizes the hardships of a writer’s life as one that is warmed by an inner glow, the power of self expression that we all have and can grow and prosper from.



Vocabulary

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| 1. elemental | 5. lingo |
| 2. conjure | 6. meticulous |
| 3. entreat | 7. legacy |
| 4. visceral | 8. procrastinator |

Pre reading writing prompt

What matters more to you than anything else? This can be something you love to do, like a hobby or passion; someone you can’t imagine being without, like a sibling or friend; or something you want to achieve through hard work, like a goal. As you write, ask yourself why you love this person, place, or thing so much. What keeps this passion alive for you?

Pre reading discussion (class wide or in pairs)

Do you believe, for the most part, that the world is a place where people can pursue their life’s passion? In a world of nearly 8 billion people, why or why not is it feasible?

Post reading discussion questions (class wide or in pairs)

1. “Writing is a full body experience.” What does Pasadena mean by this metaphor? Do you think Pasadena intends this to be taken positively or negatively? (Identify a few words to get across Pasadena’s intended connotation.)
2. Why does Pasadena choose to capitalize so many words in her first stanza? What effect does this have on the reader visually? Do you believe it’s effective? Distracting? Why?

Post reading activity:

1. Select partners (can be random or teacher-decided) and have students interview each other on their passion. What do they love, why do they love it, and how do they intend to continue forward in their life with this passion? Then, have each member present their partner’s passion to the entire class. If this is unfeasible, partners can present to the group next to them.