

What Is The Quietest Color? : Associating The Concept of Silence With A Color (For Younger Students)

In this age of advanced technology and ever-greater noise and speed, it is comforting to know that children continue to demonstrate a need for quiet experiences. By its very nature, poetry requires us to slow down, pay attention, and go inside its quiet spaces. In this quiet poetry experience students will associate a color with silence and incorporate a simile in the process.

Activity:

- 1) Gather students together in a comfortable listening place. To provide a quiet atmosphere, you might turn down the lights a bit.
- 2) Ask them to close their eyes and, without talking, think of a color that helps them feel quiet. Tell them they will be able to share their color choice one at a time.
- 3) Start the sharing time by creating a sentence/title for your own color choice and saying it aloud: “(Blank) is the quietest color.” Call on students to do the same with their color.
- 4) Tell them to close their eyes again and think of an object which is that color and is quiet.
- 5) Tell them they will connect their color and the object in the way you will share with them and say your title and first line, for example, “Gray is the quietest color/quiet as the chair rocking on the porch.”
- 6) Invite students to share. Record their poetry ideas. (If you teach 2nd or 3rd, create a form on the board in which they can build their poems. A form for 1st graders would also be workable if it is not too early in the school year and they have a facility in writing.)

Teachers of 2nd and 3rd graders could, at this point, read a sample poem from the poetry samples handout and encourage them to write three similes.

Sample Poems

Black Is The Quietest Color

Black is the quietest color

Quiet as a crow sleeping in its nest
Quiet as my dad's new truck parked in the garage
Quiet as the phone that doesn't ring

Pink Is The Quietest Color

Pink is the quietest color

Quiet as a little flower
Quiet as my cheeks when I'm cold
Quiet as a rabbit's ear that catches a sound in the wind

White Is The Quietest Color

White is the quietest color

Quiet as the snow on our cabin
Quiet as my cat breathing
Quiet as the moon in the window