



English Virtual Learning

English IV

May 20, 2020



Lesson: May 20, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

- I can analyze poems by identifying a variety of figurative language and sound devices in both.
- I can practice poetry writing skills such as rhythm, rhyming, and descriptive vocabulary.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response and include textual evidence.

Bell Ringer:

On a sheet of paper or Google Document that you will be using to take notes and write for the remainder of this lesson, respond to the the following quote:

If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree. – Michael Crichton

What message is Crichton trying to convey to his readers? Why do you think he wrote this? How might this apply to your life?



Poetry Lessons

The purpose of these lessons is to encourage you to reflect on your high school experiences and ponder your future as you say goodbye to friends, teachers, and parents and move on while thinking about the changes you are about to face and how to make good choices.

You will be asked to engage thoughtfully with the text using figurative language techniques and critical thinking skills.

If you need to review figurative language, click on this link:

[30 Literary Devices You Should Know](#)

An Indian Walks with Me by Marilou Awiakta

Background

Marilou Awiakta, Cherokee and Appalachian poet, storyteller, and essayist, was born in Knoxville in 1936 and reared in Oak Ridge. She grew up knowing distantly that her father worked in the Oak Ridge plant and having vague understanding of what that meant in relation to the war and the world around her. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee in 1958. Awiakta's unique fusion of her Cherokee and Appalachian heritage with science has brought her international recognition. In 1985 the U.S. Information Agency chose her books *Abiding Appalachia: Where Mountain and Atom Meet* and *Rising Fawn and the Fire Mystery* for the global tour of their exhibit "Women in the Contemporary World". Awiakta currently lives in Memphis, Tennessee, with her husband.

An Indian Walks in Me by Marilou Awiakta

Awiakta's prose and poetry are a composite of three traditions: Cherokee, Appalachian, and technological. We see her loss of innocence fade as her rural, nature world collides with the movements from the future. As you begin to step out of the world of high school, you have to make choices – you will be faced with innovations and ideas, etc. It is important that you have a firm foundation in who you truly are, that you walk firmly on. Remember to explore and appreciate the heritage within you...

Learn:

- Read the poem below, take notes over the basics such as figurative language, setting, etc.
- Reread the poem; this time take notes over the tone and any connections you make with the poem.

→ Read: [An Indian Walks in Me](#)

Poetry Practice:

Answer the following questions using evidence from the poem with complete sentences.

1. Explicate what effect the figurative language has on this poem as a whole.
2. What elements of the poem give it a nostalgic mood?
3. What traces of her heritage does Awiakta have left?
What traces of your heritage to you have?

Poetry Practice Answer Key: (Answers will vary)

1. The use of figurative language gives the poem a sense of reality and setting. The personification in lines 8-9, for example, gives a sense that nature is alive and she is at one with it. She rhymes lines 5 and 6. This is effective because rhyming is pleasant and lingers in your mind; this adds to the peace she is trying to portray. She respects her heritage and homeland.
2. She uses descriptive words such as “I stand against the Pine”(3), “the star that shines on me”(5), and “spindly child” (7). The imagery of the memories of childhood create the mood that she adores her past and conveys that onto the reader.
3. She just has the look of her Cherokee in hair and cheek. What’s deeper is her resolve to maintain her heritage and integrity. *Answers will vary on the second part.*

Poetry Practice Constructed Response:

Awiakta says, “Long before I learned the universal turn of atoms, I heard The Spirit’s song that bind us All as one. And no more Will I follow any rule That splits my soul.” Put these lines into your own words.

What is the significance of an atom, scientifically?

What does she mean, “rule that splits her soul”?

Given what you know about the Cherokee Indians, what ‘rules’ might have Awiakta and her family been forced to follow?

Do you agree or disagree with assertion she makes? Would that be true for your life as well? Why or why not?

Practice Answer Key:

(Answers will Vary)

- Check your answer to make sure it meets the following criteria:
 - Did you write in complete sentences and use standard conventions (spelling, punctuation, grammar)?
 - Did you answer every part of the prompt?
 - Did you support and explain your answer using details from the source text?

Sample Proficient Answer:

In the poem, *An Indian Walks in Me*, Awiakta says, “Long before I learned the universal turn of atoms, I heard The Spirit’s song that bind us All as one. And no more Will I follow any rule That splits my soul.” What she is trying to say is that when she was a child, she believed in the peace and harmony of the world. Then the nuclear war and threats changed the scope of the world. She doesn’t want to be in a place where she is torn to go against her beliefs and ideas. As a Cherokee Indian, she was likely raised to respect the earth and her native heritage. I agree with her. Science is essential in understanding our world, but what good is a world that we destroy with science? I was also raised to respect the world around me, to respect others, and take care of the things that are important to me - because if I don’t, I will lose the things and people that

Your Turn:

Use the template link below to write a poem that expresses who you are. It can be a tangible noun, maybe what you want to do when you grow up or a significant job or role you already have. Or it could be an abstract noun, maybe something you stand for.

You may make a copy of it in Google Documents or simply copy it on your piece of paper and fill in the blanks.

[A Walks in Me Poem Template](#)

Poetry Reflection:

Watch this video from Kyle Park, “Don’t Forget where you Come From.” In your notes, compare his song to the poem *An Indian Walks in Me*, noting any similarities and differences.

Then answer the question - Even though each author has a different heritage, how are they both struggling to integrate into their adult lives the lessons they were taught as children?



If you want to learn more...Additional Resource:

For a different angle of understanding as to why we make decisions in our lives based on memories of our past, watch this TED Talk by Nobel laureate and founder of behavioral economics, Daniel Kahneman. In it, he reveals how our "experiencing selves" and our "remembering selves" perceive happiness differently. This new insight has profound implications for economics, public policy -- and our own self-awareness.

