

Ages 11-14

Middle School students can learn a program surrounding poetry and literacy in relation to the Neighborhood. Made to support emotional, physical and cognitive growth.



Activity 1 - Imagination!

Read the poem twice; the 1st time read it silently to yourself, the second time read it aloud. If you are reading the poem to someone younger than you, tell them to close their eyes and try to imagine what you are reading to them. Once you are done, consider the following questions:

- What did you imagine while you were reading the poem?
- Do you think the sun actually kissed the ground? What did you imagine when you read that part of the poem?
- What do you think the poet meant when they said “young minds swing back and forth”? Has your mind ever swung back and forth? If so, about what?

Tip: Start at the end by the bike racks. This way you won’t have to walk backwards as you read. Be careful though because some of the words are spelled backwards.

Extension:

If you are in a group or family, try these activities after reading the poem.

Everyone pick their favorite color and read the poem together. Every time your color appears, it is your turn to read.

After you’ve read the poem, discuss the part you liked the most or relate to the most.

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Activity 2 - Word Hunt!

There are many other words hidden within the white letters. They are formed exactly the same way as the words in the poem. They can curve, bend and wind around each other just as long as they are in the right order to spell the word.

Can you find colors, shapes, and numbers that are hidden in the puzzle?

Extension: We are constantly finding new words hidden in the puzzle but for now we've tracked down the following. See if you can find them all!

Happy - Happen - Joy - Love - Peace - Beauty - Achieve - Nature - Free
- Fun - Friend - Laugh - Power - Respect - Safe - Smile - Special - Truth
- Super - Learn - Douglas Park - Cow - Pig - Mule - Bird - Map - Yes -
End - Up - You - Tree - Cheer

Tip: Starting at one end or the other might help you keep track of the words you've found.