

Ages 14-18

Curriculum for students in the first two years of High School. Helping them develop skills in creative thinking, inquiry and problem solving. The as students enter into the Senior years of High School, our curriculum relates to critically analyzing the work within the space.



Activity 1 - Imagination!

Read the poem twice; the first 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?
- The poet writes, "young bodies hold the courage to sprout wings." What do you think your wings would look like? What would they give you the courage to do?
- The poet also writes that the playground is "the stomping ground of doubt." What do you think she means? If you could stomp out one doubt you carry, which one would it be? Can you picture yourself pulling it out of your pocket, and stomping it out on the playground?

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.

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Activity 1 - Imagination!

Group Extension:

Discuss your experience in Douglas Park.

Do you come everyday?

What is your favorite part of the park?

Read the poem to yourself or to someone aloud.

Discuss with another the meaning of the following line or write in a notebook or device starting with the line: “For the playground/ is the stomping ground of doubt/ and the stage of opportunity.”

Activity 2 - Color Code it!

Pick a color that you like from the puzzle, find all of the words in the color and take note of them on a paper or some device.

Use just the words in that color to write a poem of your own. Feel free to mix up the order. Send your creation to claire@davidlhoytfoundation.org and they will be shared on social media!