



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

*to strengthen teaching in public schools®*

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2018 Volume II: Poems about Works of Art, Featuring Women and Other Marginalized Writers

---

## **The Words Inside Me: Learning to Express Myself through Words**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 18.02.07, published September 2018

by Desiree Denny

This unit was created to accommodate English Language students who enroll in Navajo Reservation Schools in very rural areas of the Navajo Nation. Because these students have little exposure to the English language, they will benefit from the experience of ekphrastic poetry to build their vocabulary, help them find a way to express their thoughts, and strengthen their ideas in order to share their voice in their writing. Students will be viewing works of art and analyzing poems that are written for the art works. The students will be practicing the Reading Standards implemented in our school district. As the students are observing works of art they will be understanding key ideas, characters, and settings in the poems. They will answer questions about the poems and relate key details about both the works of art and the poems. They will also practice their listening and speaking skills by identifying vocabulary words and phrases. With teacher help, the students will begin to formulate the foundational skills to build sentences that support their thoughts for creating their own ekphrastic poetry. This unit is generated for English Language students ranging from Kindergarten to Second Grade.

(Developed for Reading and Writing, grade K; recommended for Reading and Writing, grades K-3)

---

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit [https://teachers.yale.edu/terms\\_of\\_use](https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use)