



Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2025 Volume II: The Art of Writing and Revision

Love Letters to Our Lives: Creative Craft for Young Writers

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This unit will integrate creative writing into the elementary classroom by guiding second-grade students through the process of writing their own love letters in prose and poetry. Through illustrated picture book mentor texts and famous odes by Pablo Neruda, students will explore the literary devices of sensory description, personification, word choice, oxymoron, enjambment, and repetition and then employ those devices in their own writing.

With the focus on a form that effuses affection, students will honor the (perhaps) mundane items and places in their lives that are, in fact, incredibly worthy of love and celebration. Students will write love letters to foods, places, and words and odes to animals and toys. The use of various literary devices will make the subject come alive for the reader and encourage readers to celebrate the minutiae of their own lives.

After composition is done, students will get the chance to become the experts on all they've learned in order to workshop peers' writing. These workshoped and revised pieces will then be compiled into a class anthology that can live in classroom libraries for years to come.

(Developed for Reading, Research, and Writing RRW, grade 2; recommended for Writing, grades 1-5)

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