

Lesson Plan 4: Teaching Aesthetics

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Total Time: 45 minutes

Ages: 5-6

Number of Participants: 4-5

Materials:

- Something Beautiful, Sharon Dennis Wyeth
- Paper and markers
- Every day “beautiful” objects (leaves, rocks, stuffed animals, trinkets, etc.)

Goals:

Challenge the idea that beauty isn't just about how things look but how they can make us feel. Our hope is that the children leave understanding that beauty can mean different things to different people and that things can be imperfect *and* beautiful at the same time.

Introduction:

5 Mins

- Go around and say names
- What is something you see everyday that is beautiful?

Read-Aloud:

10 Mins

- Something Beautiful
 - What made the things in the book beautiful? Did you feel that way too? Is beauty something everyone can see or is it subjective?

MOVEMENT BREAK–wiggle it out

2 Mins

Activity 1: Drawing rotation

15 Mins

- Each child starts with their own piece of paper. They will have 3 minutes to draw something then the paper will be passed to the next person. By the end everyone will have incorporated something into every drawing.
 - Is it still beautiful if the original intent changed or if everyone has a different idea of beauty?
 - Have them explain why they think it is pretty either as a whole or the different aspects

MOVEMENT BREAK–Stretch it out

2 Mins

Activity 2: The Beauty Table

10 Mins

- Put a display on the table of various objects –a leaf, a shiny rock, a toy, a picture, etc. Ask the kids if these objects are beautiful and why. Incorporate noise as well—bells, chimes, waves and so on. Identify if there is a through line between these sounds and objects that make them beautiful or if they are all special in their own way.
- Sort them into what they believe to be beautiful and not beautiful
- **Goal:** Show that beauty can mean different things—soft, shiny, natural, colorful, etc.

Activity 3: Dress Up

- We will all bring accessories and our clothes
- We let them dress us up, make us "beautiful"