



Title: <i>When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons</i>	Author: Julie Fogliano
Genre/Unit: Poetry	Warm Up: <i>Spring</i> by Joyce Sidman

I chose to pair this book with *Kiyoshi's Walk* because it sends a similar message: the world around us is full of ideas for poems. We just need to be careful observers. Using a diary-like format encourages students to notice and write on any and all days - not just in the month of April. I was especially tickled that the author lives in our own Hudson Valley of New York.

Vocabulary (I selected the words from the section SPRING)

Tier 2 Word	Page	Student Friendly Definition (kids.wordsmyth.net, collinsdictionary.com, ldoceonline.com)
huddle	6	to gather in a small close group
sulk	6	to show a bad mood by being quiet and staying away from people
exhausted	6	extremely tired; having used up all or nearly all of your energy
soggy	9	completely wet; heavy with water or other liquid
furious	13	violently angry

Warm Up Poem:

Spring

In SPRING
Red sings
 from treetops:
cheer - cheer - cheer,
 each note dropping
 like a cherry
 into my ear.

Red turns
 the maples feathery,
 sprouts in rhubarb spears;
Red squirms on the road
 after rain.

Joyce Sidman



Reading

Page #	Accountable Talk	JOYcabulary
Before Reading	<p>Vocabulary, comprehension strategies, think alouds, and student talk.</p> <p>We think of tomatoes growing in our gardens in mid to late summer. But in this anthology of poems, the poet celebrates all that each season brings... from spring's mud to winter's snow-covered pines. Let's read the back cover to find out what singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant thinks of this book. Let's enjoy the little bits of WONDER our world gives us if only we slow down enough to notice... just like poets do.</p>	<p>Getting students to own their words: speaking, reading, and writing.</p>
During Reading P. 1 - 7	<p>Julie uses the poetic craft move of personification in her poems. Let's see what she brings to life. Enjoy how she uses another poetic craft move - repetition - when describing spring's mud. Did you enjoy how she played with the word?</p>	<p>huddle sulk exhausted</p>
P. 8 - 11	<p>"What to do with a nose" Julie is referring to lilacs. Are there other spring smells? What if she wrote what to do with hands? With feet?</p>	<p>soggy</p>
P. 12 - 13	<p>Here Julie is speaking to the clouds... quiet enough for the sun to hear, but not wake the rain. What is she really trying to say? Why might the strawberries be furious? Hmm I wonder why she used a lower case letter for the word I?</p>	<p>overhear furious</p>
P. 14	<p>Let's study the structure of this poem. First she lists what she doesn't know, then what she does know, Finally she returns to what she feels about not knowing.</p>	
P. 15	<p>We can use our senses to help us write poems. Here Julie uses her sense of taste. What does she mean when she says she can taste the sunshine, buzzing, and the breeze when she eats berries?</p>	
After Reading	<p>Let's go back to the June 10th entry and write a class poem borrowing her structure. What are some things we notice in spring that we don't know much about (but we know a little)?</p>	

Extensions

Reading:

- parts of speech: precise verbs and adjectives

Writing:

- personification
- repetition



- line breaks
- white spaces
- parentheses

Vocabulary:

- teach word meanings through gestures: *shiver*, *flutters*.

Other related activities and books you may enjoy:

- Poetry Walk: see April 2024 Caregiver post and parentmap.com or poetryfoundation.org
- *Red Sings from Treetops: a year in colors* - Joyce Sidman
- Visit poet Amy Ludwig Vanderwater's website thepoemfarm.amylv.com
Amy is a former teacher and staff developer at Teachers College, Columbia University
She just finished her *Friday Coaxing Poems* lessons for young writers, but they remain available.
For National Poetry Month, she has a daily poem project. Check her out. She is amazing!

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APRIL

Tip

of the Month

JOYcabulary

Vocabulary Spinners!