

# Lesson Plan: Sensory Poetry with Joni Mitchell

## The Lyrical Life of Joni Mitchell

By Selina Alko

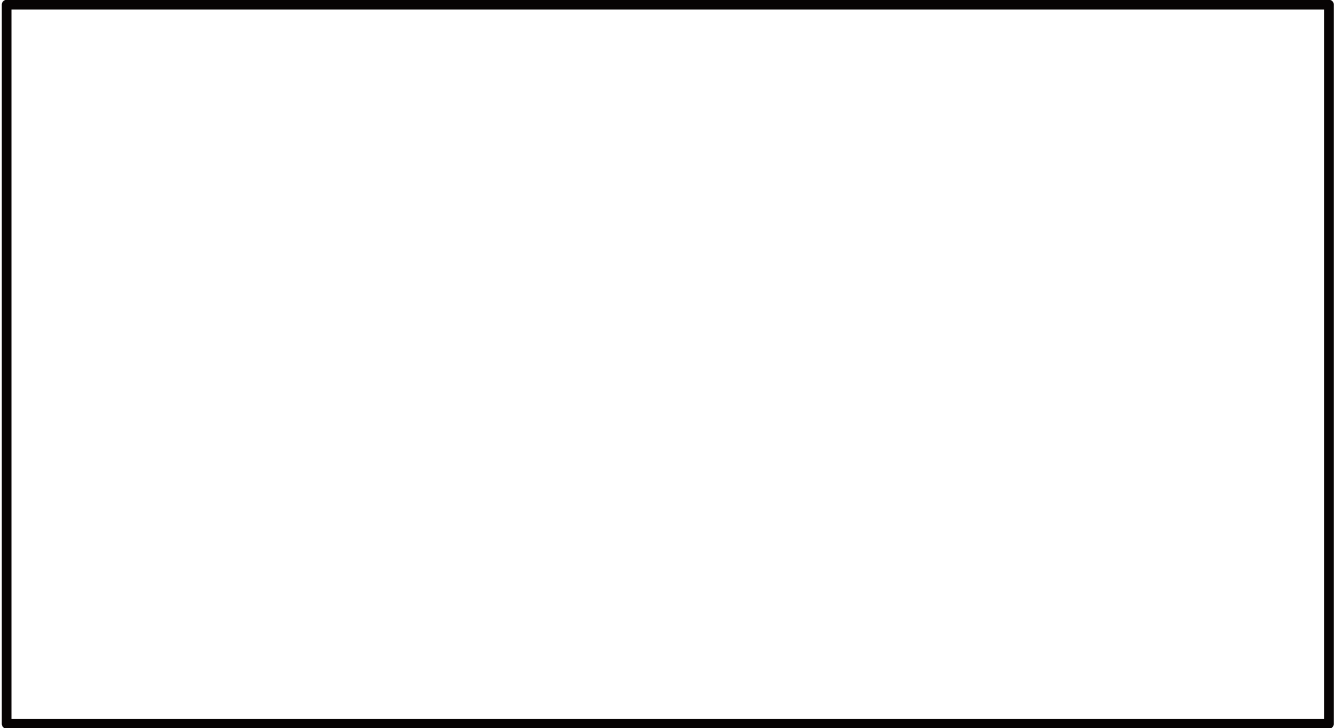
- Resources and Preparation:
  - Materials
    - Joni: The Lyrical Life of Joni Mitchell by Selina Alko
    - Printed worksheets
    - Pencils and coloring utensils
  - Technology
    - Optional: Smartboard for showing powerpoint and videos listed in additional resources.
- Instructional Plan:
  - State Objectives (from the Oklahoma Academic Standards for Social Studies, 2nd grade)
    - 2.7.R Students will explore and compare ideas in a multimodal context.
    - 2.7.W Students will use a combination of writing, sound, visual content, and/or movement to communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
  - Student Objectives
    - 1. Notice the ways Joni's song lyrics described her world.
    - 2. Write a sensory poem describing students' world.
  - Lesson
    - 1. Read as a class, "The Lyrical Life of Joni Mitchell" by Selina Alko.
    - 2. Locate song lyrics in the illustrations. Discuss how Joni used words to describe her world.
    - 3. Introduce the sensory poem - poetry that describes how a poet perceives something using the five senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, feel) and does not have to rhyme.
    - 4. Discuss places the students know well - school, home, the playground, a donut shop, grandma's kitchen, the school bus, the bathroom.
    - 5. Each student selects a place and fills in the blanks about that place using the sentence starters on the white worksheet.
    - Students rewrite their poems without the starters on the colorful worksheets and draw a picture of their chosen place.
    - Students volunteer to read their poems aloud. Their peers try to guess the place being described in the poem.
    - Optional extension: Listen to Joni's "Blue Album," now celebrating its 50th anniversary. Use the music to inspire free coloring or writing.
- Additional Resources
  - Selina Alko reading the book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3aVR3lyatI>
  - Poetry Lesson Plan - includes a powerpoint "What is Poetry?" <https://betterlesson.com/lesson/593824/poetry-what-is-it>
  - Songs by Joni Mitchell:
    - Big Yellow Taxi <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2595abcvh2M>
    - The Circle Game <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9VoLCO-d6U>
    - Chelsea Morning <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWDyA4S-geg>



"Joni Mitchell painted with words.

Sitting at her piano or strumming the guitar,  
she turned the words into songs.

The songs were like brushstrokes on a canvas,  
saying things that were not only  
happy or sad but true."



**I see** \_\_\_\_\_

**I taste** \_\_\_\_\_

**I smell** \_\_\_\_\_

**I feel** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hear** \_\_\_\_\_



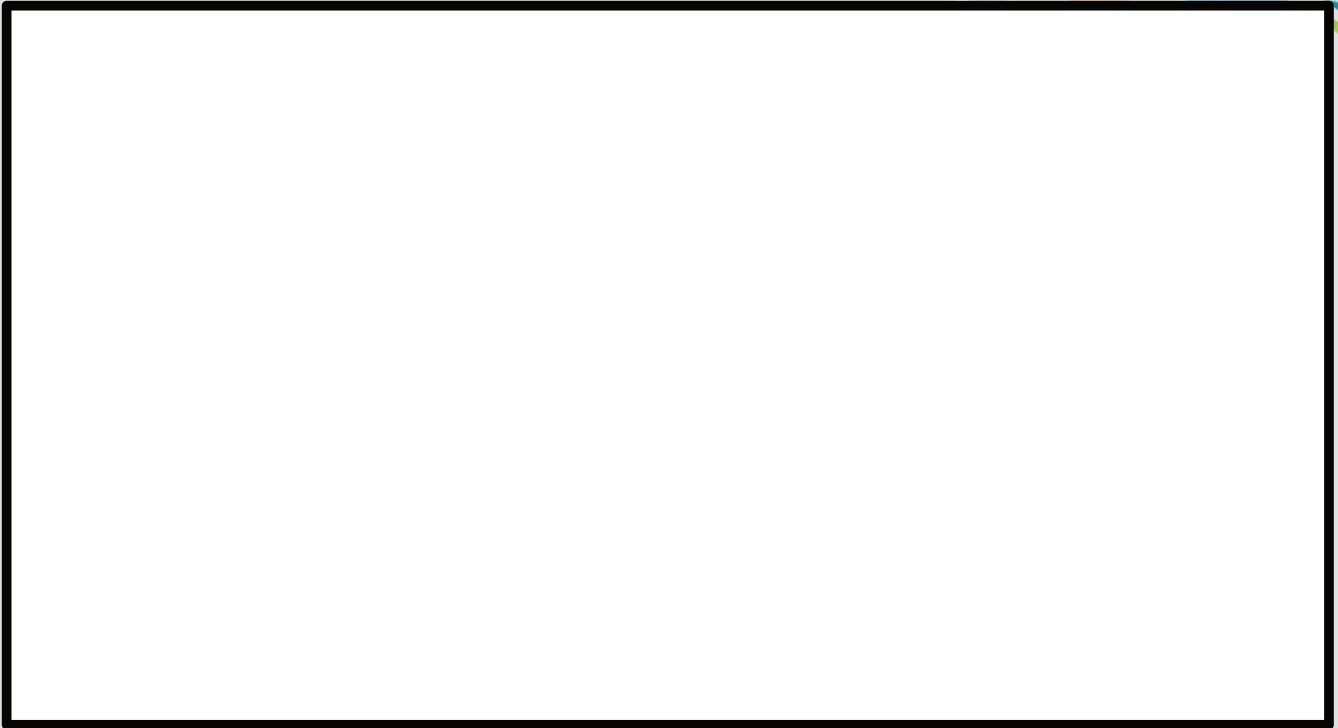
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