



Video/Story Discussion:

- What mood or feeling does the book create? What words or images help create that feeling?
- What is one way the book shows us that we are all connected to the world around us?
- If you had to explain the main message of *All the World* in one sentence to someone who had never heard the book, what would you say?

Activity #1: Art in the Ordinary (30-45 minutes):

The book highlights many things we encounter every day without giving them much thought. It begins by drawing attention to parts of the body, our arms, hands, shoulders, and other features we see in the mirror or use without thinking. Yet these seemingly ordinary “things” are remarkable.

According to Science News Today ([15 Most Amazing Facts About the Human Body Backed by Science](#)), your brain contains more connections than stars in the galaxy, your bones are stronger than steel, your eyes can detect millions of colors, and your blood travels thousands of miles a day. If something as familiar and seemingly ordinary as our own bodies can be so incredible, what other small, mundane things do we encounter every day without noticing their beauty? What moments, objects, or actions might we overlook simply because they are so familiar?

That is the focus of today’s lesson! Finding or creating something beautiful and unique from something we might have overlooked or wouldn’t have given a second thought to.

Today we are going to think back on our past week. What is something you may have done, seen, or experienced that you thought was boring or unremarkable at the time? Whatever it is, maybe going to the grocery store, brushing our teeth in the morning, or even something as small as our favorite T-shirt- we are going to transform it into a piece of art: a haiku.

A haiku is a simple form of poetry from Japan, typically three lines with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern. This means the first and last lines have five syllables, while the middle has seven. An example is:

*In the pale moonlight,
The air smells of long-kept dreams,
The stars write themselves.*

Your haiku will be based on whatever small, everyday thing you think you can turn into the best poem. Your life is beautiful, all life is beautiful, and I hope you’re as excited as I am to focus on the small part of that beauty that might not get enough credit!

Activity Materials:

- Notebook Paper
- Writing Utensils

Activity Instructions (after Intro to Natl Day of Reading and included videos):

1. Provide students with time to brainstorm their topic by themselves and then discuss either in pairs or small groups.
2. Once you feel confident all students understand the assignment and have an idea of what they are going to write about, allow students between 15-30 minutes to complete the haiku.
3. **If adequate time-* Once students have completed, invite them to share their work with a partner, in a small group, or with the whole class



Activity #2: Through Their Eyes (30-50 minutes):

In *All the World*, we see many different parts, versions, and perspectives of human life. We see farmers selling their goods, a family on a trip to the beach, beekeepers, cooks, musicians playing their instruments, and grandparents holding their grandchildren. Everyone's life is different, and each person has a story and experiences that shape how they see the world.

Recognizing this can help us become more understanding and compassionate. Everyone brings different experiences and perspectives to their interactions with others. When someone says or does something that upsets or inconveniences us, remember that we may not know what they are going through or what has shaped their behavior.

We're all different, and while that's a great thing, it can sometimes make understanding and connecting with others seem harder than it is. One way to close this gap is to look at situations, arguments, or encounters from the other person's point of view; you may find you have more in common than you think.

This is what we are going to try to do today! Don't worry, we won't be writing about people we know, but about our favorite characters from books, comics, television shows, or movies we enjoy! We are going to write a brief story "through the eyes" of someone else.

While it may feel uncomfortable to speak and write from a perspective that's not your own, it's a great way to practice empathy and understand how someone else might see the world. Use what you know about the character, personality traits, relationships, and things they do or don't like. While you won't be able to capture everything that makes that character who they are, hopefully you'll have fun trying!

Activity Materials:

- Notebook Paper
- Writing Utensils

Activity Instructions (after *Intro to Natl Day of Reading and included videos*):

1. Give students time to brainstorm their story topic
2. Once you're confident all students understand the assignment and have an idea of what they'll write about, give students 25-45 minutes to complete it

