

Question the Body



GRADE LEVEL

Preschool - 1st

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Inspired by the art making process in Dorney's featured work and additional project *Home Poems*, create an abstract redaction poem by recycling an already existing work of writing.

GOALS

Students will understand:

- How close observation is a tool for learning and discovery
- Transformation of body of writing to art form
- Development of a simple poem unique to the maker
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ARTIST

Erin Dorney | Lovell, ME

Blending poetry and visual arts, Dorney's work takes shape on screen, encased, or installed into intimate spaces.

Her featured work was developed during a residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in

INTRODUCTION

QUESTION THE BODY is a collection of photographs and time-lapse videos where gathered natural objects obscure pages from "The Question and Answer Book About The Human Body" by Ann McGovern (Random House, 1965). Through recorded erasure/redaction, each poem is built by the disembodied hands of the artist. The unobscured text reveals inquiries into physical form, preference, expression, and function.

By emphasizing process over product, *QUESTION THE BODY* blurs the boundaries between writing, visual art, appropriation, performance, and assemblage. Works in this series were created during a residency at Hewnoaks Artist Colony in Lovell, Maine. All natural objects were collected from the grounds of the residency during the artist's weeklong stay in 2019.

LESSON

Take a look at the On Screen artwork of Erin Dorney found on our website at <https://cmcanow.org/event/screen-dorney-question-the-body/>. Inspired by the art making process in Dorney's featured work and additional project *Home Poems*, create an abstract redaction poem by recycling an already existing work of writing. Additional poetry projects and resources can be viewed at erindorney.com.

CRITICAL QUESTIONS

What are some letters I can know? Can I outline the letters I know? What are the sounds of the letters? Can I find and circle a capital letter? Can I create a dashed line striking out the text?

*Abstract poems do not have to make sense! They can be a collective of letters, words, or feelings that sound good together or look cohesive.

CELEBRATE YOUR WORK

Build a collection of your own abstract poems and share them with family and friends, teach your siblings or parents the process and share what you've created with us @cmcanow.

VOCABULARY

Uppercase: larger size letter within the word, used at beginning of a sentence, name, title or abbreviation.

Lowercase: small letters used in majority of words following capitol letters

Abstract: a form of artistic response to a physical reality, simplified marks to complex physical information

Redaction Poem: repurposing a work of writing using the editing technique of blacking out text to transform original visual form and meaning

Outline: line restricted to the area around text or physical shape

Emphasis: focal point in a visual artwork

MATERIALS

- Recycled food boxes with text
- Labels
- Magazines
- Marker or crayon
- Small found objects that you have a collection of (i.e. LEGOS, crayons, blocks, rocks)



INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1

Find a cereal box or recycled text that can be recycled in your home.

STEP 2

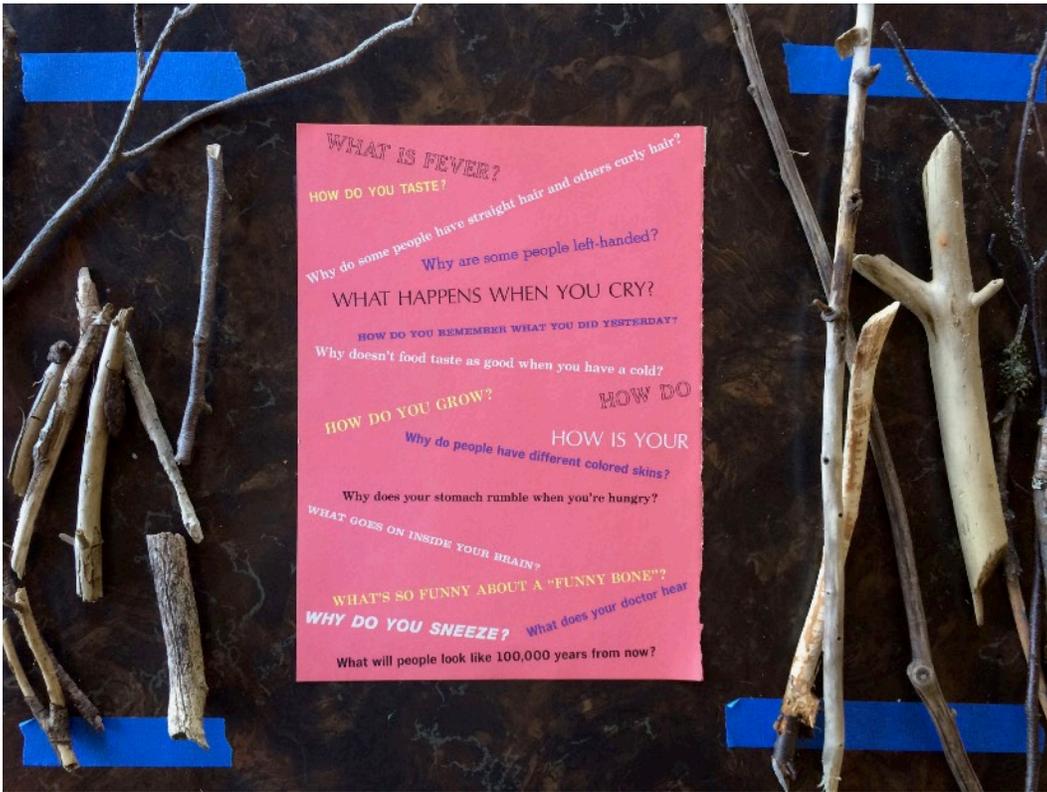
Choose one or two word/letter(s) you can identify, sound out, and write your own. Outline this word/letter throughout the text, try to find every single one.

STEP 3

Carefully cover up the words and text around the circled letter(s) using toys, found object, or marker. This will emphasize the letter that you have just circled.

TIPS & TRICKS:

- When assisting challenge young artist to identify whether the letter is uppercase, lowercase
- Encourage artist to sound out word/letter while circling.



Erin Dorney

Above and Below: Question the Body, Why 2019

Recycled Paper & Sticks

On Screen 6:53

