

“The Facts of Art” Close Reading Activity
“Our Home, Our Kuleana” Unit



Step One: Read the poem [“The Facts of Art”](#) as a class. As you go, annotate (remember that annotation is like having a conversation with the author; you should write notes in the margins, highlight sections, and interact significantly with the text). For this first round of annotation do two things: 1. Look for anything that comes to mind/stands out to you. 2. Think about the clash between culture and society that exists in the poem (Native American community vs. the white men building the road).

- After reading and annotating, write down your initial impressions of the poem in two to three sentences. Then discuss your findings in small groups.

Step Two: Read the poem a second time, annotating again. Now that you’ve read and annotated it twice and also started discussing it, have any words taken on a new meaning with the second reading? Has anything been illuminated with regards to the clash between culture and society?

- After reading and annotating a second time, write down your impressions in two or three sentences, focusing on the above questions. Then discuss your findings as a full class.

Step Three: Examine the poem’s structure. Reread the poem for a third time, annotating again. This time, focus on the following:

1. Structure– what is unique about the way the poem is structured/the way the stanzas are formatted?
 2. The concept of kuleana and community– in what ways are various characters privileged in this poem? What are some of their responsibilities to those privileges?
- After you have annotated, answer the following question in two or three sentences: How does the structure contribute to the overall meaning of the

poem? What is the specific structure of this poem meant to represent? What stood out to you about kuleana in this poem? Then discuss your responses as a full class.

Step Four: Answer the following questions in four to five sentences each.

1. What was illuminated to you after reading the poem once, then twice, and then a third time? What new meanings did you discover as you continued unpacking the text through multiple readings/annotations?
2. How does this poem reflect this unit's theme "Our Home, Our Kuleana"? Look at some of the characters in the poem and examine their responsibility and privilege and think about whether or not they were living in a way that reflected appropriate kuleana. Reflect upon the way indigenous cultures have had their land and culture stripped of them throughout the world.

Step Five: Submit (annotations as well as written responses)