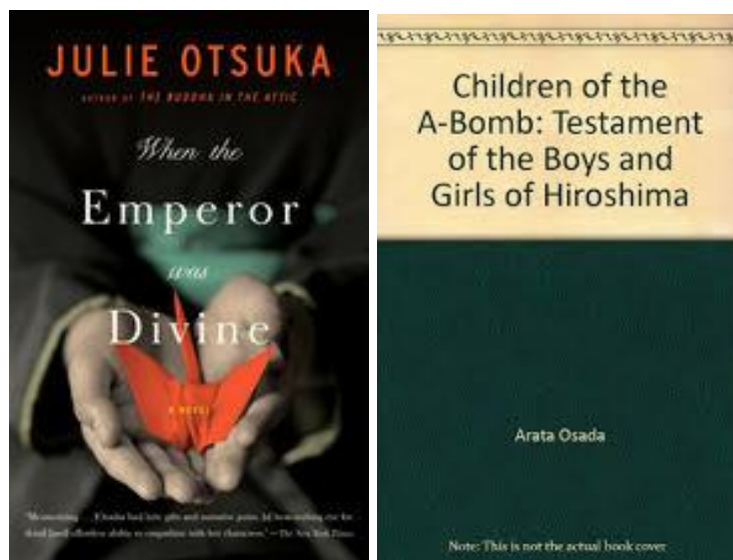


Poetry and Perspective: Hiroshima



Display of Student Poems

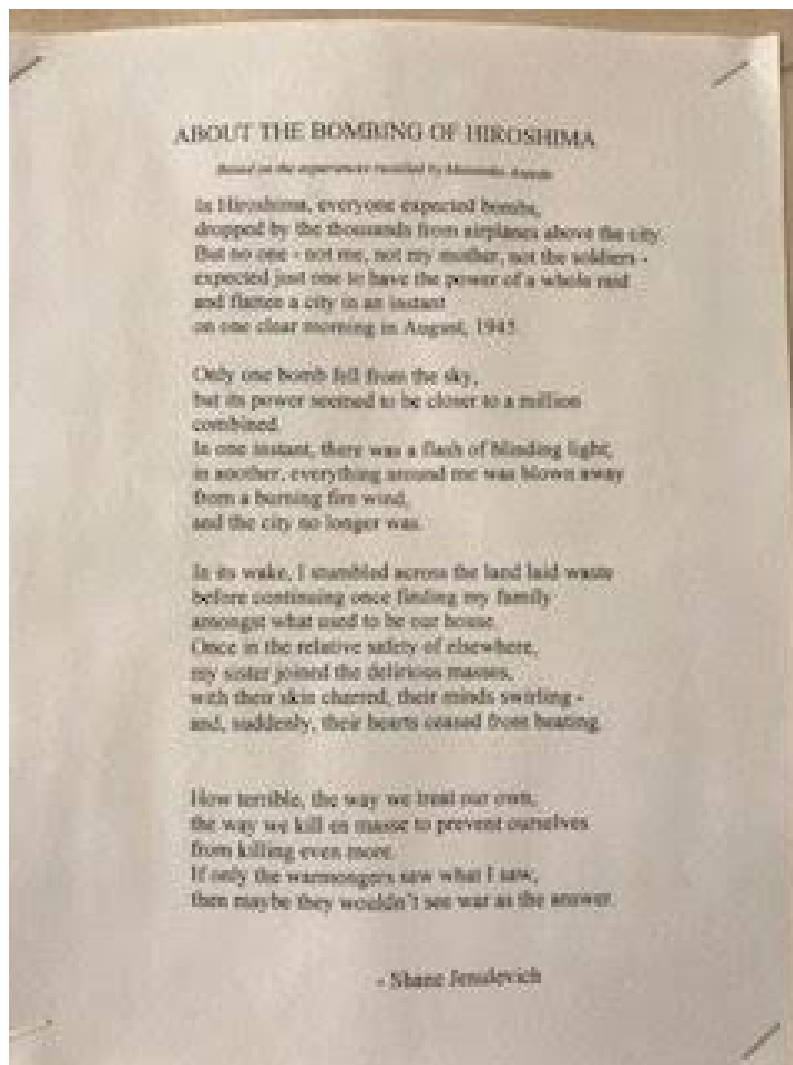
About This Assignment: This creative writing activity was completed in conjunction with a Literary Perspective unit centered on the novel, *When the Emperor Was Divine*. Students were given an excerpt from the book, *Children of the A Bomb*. This book, compiled by Arata Osada, contains letters written by children who survived the bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The heart-wrenching letters serve as a source of inspiration for students to craft poems written from the perspective of the child who wrote the letter. Step-by-step graphic organizers guide students to gather the relevant information from their source, then helps them organize their information into a workable format for an original poem.



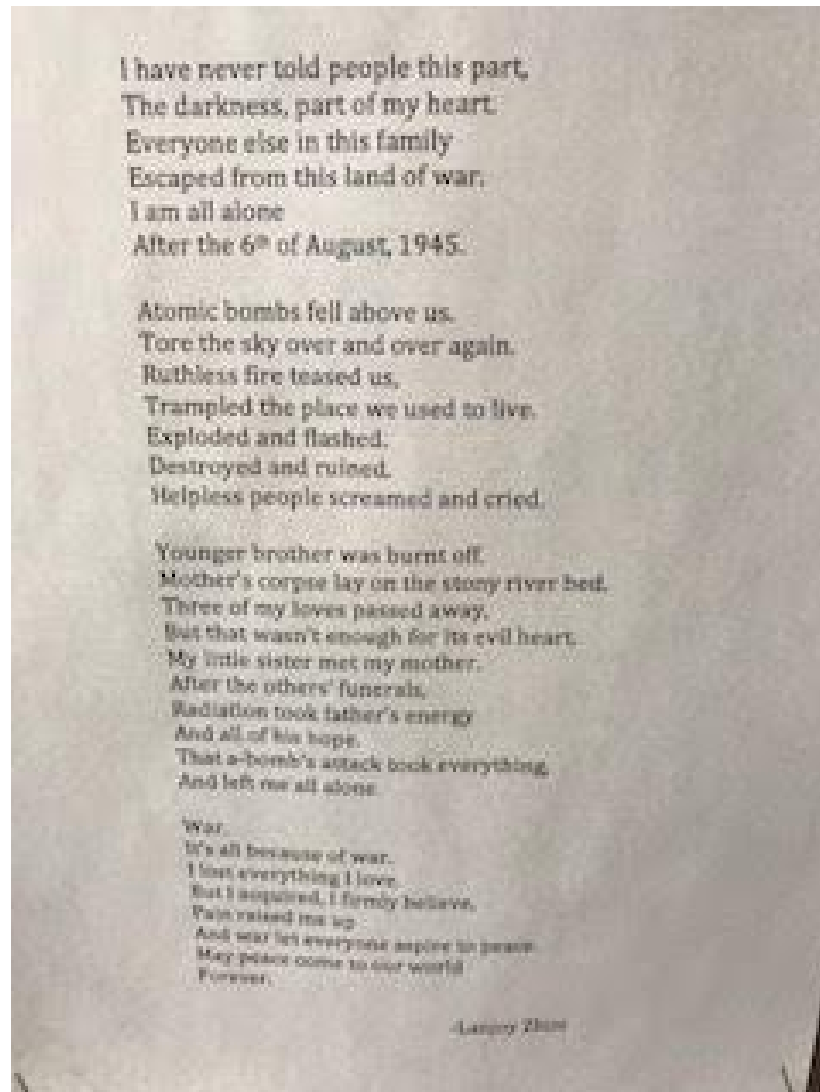
How It Impacts Student Learning: This exercise in creative writing helps students to recognize tone and the use of language to establish tone and voice. It also builds students' capacities for empathy by encouraging them to take the perspective of someone else. Finally, the writing process underscores the form and structure of narrative poems while also increasing students' understanding of imagery.

How It Reflects My Educational Philosophy: This assignment brings together two of my favorite subjects: history and creative writing. The emphasis on perspective taking derives from my commitment to fostering social justice, and the step-by-step graphic organizers is inspired by my desire to help students accomplish more than they believe themselves capable of, by breaking down large assignments into manageable pieces.

Samples of Student Work:



This student's poem was so well done that it was submitted to the school literary magazine and accepted for publication.



This student, from China, was inspired by the assignment to create a number of sketches in his painting and drawing class.

Moving Forward: This assignment is one that I have used a few times with my standard sophomores. For several, it was their favorite assignment. I would love to find a way to bring this assignment to the Humanities classroom. I hope to find similar sources from an event connected to our Humanities history curriculum and use these sources as the basis for a poetry writing activity with my freshmen.