

Lesson for High School: Why Wheat?

Overview: **Wheat** often evokes a certain **imagery**. Students will look at 2 poems and compare and contrast the imagery of **wheat**. Then they will look at the history of wheat production within the U.S. food system over time. Then they will write a poem on their views of wheat as they see it in our current food system.

Lesson	Time	Essential Questions	Activity	Conclusion
<i>Why Wheat?</i>	2 classes, 120 minutes	<p>What is the symbolism behind wheat?</p> <p>Why is wheat a focal point for specific imagery?</p> <p>What does wheat symbolize for you?</p>	<p>Use slides 4-7 HERE</p> <p>Class 1 Talk about the terms: imagery, symbolism, theme and message</p> <p>Class 2 Introduce wheat and see what descriptive words students come up with. Then students will read poem 1 and discuss. Repeat with poem 2. On slide 7, compare and contrast the 3 elements from class 1.</p> <p>Extension: What does wheat mean to you? Write a short poem about your feelings toward wheat as an ingredient, historical significance, etc.</p>	<p>Students will review terms used in poetry by analyzing 2 poems that use wheat as a symbol.</p> <p>Students will then look at their own point of view on wheat and write a short poem that takes a deeper look at wheat as their own symbol.</p>

Additional Resources:

[Slides 1-3](#) for additional wheat lesson or exercise

– slides created by EARTHDAY.ORG