

STEPPENWOLF EDUCATION

Virtual Workshop: Teen Writing Workshop

March 25, 2020

Co-Created: Abhi Shrestha and Fatima Sowe

(50 minute lesson)

LOI: While exploring the song “Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman, can we utilize our sense of memory to write a scene that allows us to free our creativity while grounding ourselves in the present moment.

CAPACITIES: Noticing Deeply, Living in Ambiguity & Making Connections

MODALITY: Written Artmaking

MATERIALS:

- Viewing Device (Computer/Phone)
 - Pens/Pencils
-

LESSON STEPS

STEP ONE (5 minutes) Listen and Describe

- While listening to [“Fast Car” by Tracy Chapman](#) write down your first impressions and associations.
 - *First impressions* – how would you describe this song to a person who hasn’t heard it before? What instruments are most present to your ear? What lyrics stand out to you?
 - *Associations* – notice your breathing/ heart rate, what emotions are you experiencing?

STEP TWO (7 minutes) Listen and Free Write

- Call to mind a memory related to family. This memory DOES NOT have to be related to the song in any way. It can be a memory from earlier today, or from 10 years ago. Family can be defined in many ways: biological or chosen, siblings, friends, however you define it.
- Take 5 minutes to free-write based on this memory. Use these guideposts to support your free-write:
 - Phrases: What did you hear? What was said?
 - Place: What did it look like in this memory? What was the temperature, objects, setting, etc.?
 - Who was there? Describe these people/animals/ characters.

STEPPENWOLF EDUCATION

STEP THREE (5 minutes) Select 3 lines of Lyrics

- Choose [three lines of lyrics from Fast Car by Tracy Chapman](#) that resonate with you.

STEP FOUR (10 minutes) Write a 10-line scene

- Write a 10-line scene using your free write, your impressions and associations with fast car, and the lyrics from the song. Use this ingredient list to get you started:
 - Use at least TWO lines from the lyrics
 - Use ONE person, place OR phrase from your free-write on memory
 - Write a title for the scene

Thanks for all your great work!