



GRADE LEVEL

Middle School

TOPIC

How can we expand our definition of math to include creative writing?

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

Ask students to question their ideas about math, such as:

- What thoughts do we have about which kinds of people are good at math?
- Is math just about equations and calculations?
- Are you able to see math in a picture or poem?

MATERIALS

- Paper, pencil, pens, and markers
- *being* by Neil Kaufman:
<https://cdm15772.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15772coll3/id/5341/rec/77>

LESSON PLAN

Activity (5 minutes)

- Brainstorm breakfast foods and then finish the following sentences:
 - I like (breakfast food) more than _____
 - I like (breakfast food) as much as _____
 - I like (breakfast food) less than _____

Reading (5 minutes)

- Read *being* by Neil Kaufman
- Ask what the students thought of the poem
 - Where do you see math in it?

Group Wordstorm (5 minutes)

- Work together to come up with as many words that relate to math as you can!

Writing (20 minutes)

- Identify the poetry concept: Take the problem and turn it, reflecting on how to write your own works and make it personal to you.
- Ask the students to write their own story problems using one or a combination of the words they came up with.
 - Example for $24 + 9 = 33$:
 - Ella got on 24 of her mom's nerves. Soon she got on 9 more. How many total nerves did Ella get on? Answer: 33 nerves.

Sharing (10 minutes)

Discussion (10 minutes)

- Have a candid conversation about math:
 - Who is good at math, why do we think this?
 - Highlight what math can be used for.