

Hidden Words



GRANT RECIPIENTS

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NYS STANDARD

ELA Standard 2, 4
The Arts Standard 1, 2

GRADE LEVEL

Grade 6

STUDENTS SERVED

78 students

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Hidden Words provided the unique opportunity for students and educators to incorporate the arts into the language arts curriculum.

Photographs were taken at Beaver Lake Nature Center after a presentation on the basics of taking photographs of the natural surroundings that were found at the Center. Following the development of the film, students created poetry based on one of their photographs. Next, the individual writing pieces and pictures were matted for display. Finally, their displays were presented at a gallery presentation to parents, family members, and peers. Students kept a journal to evaluate the process used to develop *Hidden Words*. Specific prompts were given for the journal entries. Students' poems were evaluated through the use of a poetry-specific rubric.

Materials: Disposable cameras, film development, enlarged photographs, matting, matting knife, decorative paper, supplies for gallery presentation.

STUDENT OUTCOMES

As a result of this grant, students were able to enrich their verbal and nonverbal communication skills and exhibit their pride of ownership via participation in the gallery presentation. By going through the developmental process, students were able to demonstrate their use of critical thinking as they selected a subject to photograph and made it "come alive" through their poetry. Students were able to convey a clear, creative, engaging flow in their writing. Enthusiasm for writing was increased by their having experienced a unique venue for self-expression.