Facing Hard Questions

Language Arts Module

Grades 6-8

by

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Facing Hard Questions

**Purpose:** This module will assess the student’s ability to read and comprehend a piece of fiction and nonfiction with a common theme. The student will be required to apply the theme to a real world situation. Students will be required to read a speech, a poem, and discover the relationships between them. The students will be required to use the writing process to write an essay.

**Show-Me Standards Addressed:**

Knowledge: CA2, CA4  
Performance: 1.5, 1.8

**Grade Level Range:** 6-8

**Subject Area:** Communication Arts

**Materials and Resources Needed:**  
The speech, “This We Know” by Chief Seattle and the poem, “Hard Questions” by Margaret Tsuda, the Module Packet (which includes the student response sheets, the writing prompt, and the scoring guides), a pencil or pen.

**Time Needed for Event:** Three class periods of 50 minutes each.

**Administrator’s Instructions:** Present students with the module packet and explain the directions. Make sure students understand what they are to do. Discuss the scoring guides so students know what is expected for quality. Remind students to use the checklist to self-edit prior to writing their final draft.

**Pre-assessment Instructions:** Prior to the assessment, the student must have read the speech, “This We Know” by Chief Seattle and the poem, “Hard Questions” by Margaret Tsuda. Students must also know how to interpret figurative language, make inferences, compare and contrast, provide support for a claim by using details from the story, and use the writing process to write an essay.
Facing Hard Questions
Student Response Sheet # 1

1. “This We Know” is full of sensory images. Complete the chart below with sensory images from the speech.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sense</th>
<th>Images from “This We Know”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sound</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What does Chief Seattle say is the relationship between Earth and its people? Support your answer with two or more examples from the text.

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3. Why is the poem titled “Hard Questions”? Use details and information from the poem to support your answer.

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______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
4. In the poem “Hard Questions,” what does the poet say man has done as he developed the earth for human use? Use details and information from the poem to support your answer.

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5. Contrast the poem “Hard Questions” and the speech “This We Know.” In the space below, create a graphic organizer that shows at least two ways the selections are different. Be sure your graphic organizer has a title and labels.
Facing Hard Questions
Writing Prompt

Directions

Read the prompt in the box below.

“*This We Know*” and “*Hard Questions*” stress the importance of respecting and taking care of the earth.

You have been asked to speak to a class of fifth grade students on the importance of observing Earth Day. Write a paper telling the students what they can do to save the Earth for future generations. Explain why these actions are important.

You will use your own paper and follow the writing process.

* Organize your ideas by completing a prewriting activity. This may include brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing.

* Use your prewriting to complete a rough draft of your paper.

* Use the checklist provided below to self-edit your rough draft.

* Use your edited paper to write your final copy of the paper.

Writers Checklist

____ My paper has a clear beginning, middle, and end.

____ My paper stays on topic.

____ My paper flows smoothly from one idea to another.

____ My paper includes details and examples.

____ My paper includes a variety of sentence structures.

____ My paper uses paragraphing effectively.

____ My paper uses precise, vivid language.

____ My paper includes correct grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization and spelling.