

Honey, I Love by Eloise Greenfield

Poetry Workshop

PK-3rd grade. Can be adapted for older students. 1 hour

Goals: (1) To introduce students to a famous African American poet, Eloise Greenfield, and her poetry language and rhythm) (2) To engage students in writing their own poetry about what they love in their lives

Skills: Listening, comprehending, making connections with literature to their own lives, using the writing process, reciting poetry

Before the session:

- Cut out each of the questions and answers below on its own strip of paper
- Practice reading aloud “Honey, I Love” and any other poems you will read to the class

- I. Introduce yourself and tell why you came to the class today** **2min**
- II. Brief background on Eloise Greenfield** **10min**
min
- Pass out the ten strips of paper to ten different children
 - Ask the person who has question #1 to read aloud her/his question and ask the children who have “answers” to read their slips silently to see who has the right response to that question. Continue with question #2-5 in this format.
- III. Read poem(s) aloud** **10min**
- Optional: You may want to read one or two other poems in the book first: Harriet Tubman, By Myself). Look through the book for your personal favorites.
 - Read “Honey, I Love” aloud—passionately! (You will need to practice at home.)
- IV. Discussion** **10min**
- Ask the children to tell you their favorite part of the poem
 - Then ask who can remember what the poet loves:
 - The way my cousin talks
 - To feel a flying pool (hose)
 - The laughing sound
 - To take a family ride
 - To kiss my mama’s arm
 - You
 - Ask for volunteers to tell you what the poem makes them think of in their own lives: what are the everyday things that they LOVE? (Encourage them to be specific, to give us a picture with their words: e.g., Instead of “I love my mom,” Eloise writes, “I love to kiss my mama’s arm.”)
- V. Writing Poetry** **15min**
- Either as a whole class or individually, ask students to write a poem about what they love starting with the first three lines of “Honey, I Love:”
I love
I love a lot of things, a whole lot of things
Like
- VI. Share Poetry** **10min**
- Let students who want to read their poems.

Question 1: Who is Eloise Greenfield?

Question 2: Where was she born and where did she live most of her life?

Question 3: Did she have any children or grandchildren?

Question 4: What did she write books and poems about?

Question 5: What is her most famous book of poetry?

Answer: Eloise Greenfield is a famous African American poet and writer. She published 48 children's books!

Answer: Eloise was born in North Carolina and grew up in Washington, D.C., which is where she lived most of her life.

Answer: Eloise Greenfield had one son, one daughter, and four grandchildren.

Answer: Eloise Greenfield writes about strong, loving African American families and communities, like the ones in which she grew up.

Answer: Eloise Greenfield's most famous book of poetry is *Honey, I Love*.