

Navajo Code Talkers: A Poem
Late Elementary (3rd - 5th)

Time: 45 minutes/1 day

Lesson Overview: An analysis of the theme and rhyme/rhyme scheme of the poem Navajo Code Talkers

Relevant New Mexico Social Studies Standards:

- 3.13.** Explain how world events impact New Mexico and the United States, both in the past and present.
- 4.25.** Participate in inquiry of other people's lives and experiences while demonstrating respect and empathy for others.
- 5.31.** Explain how the treatment of groups of people in the past and present impacts who they are.

Relevant Santa Fe Public Schools Priority Standards:

- 3.13.** Explain how world events impact New Mexico and the United States, both in the past and present.

Required Materials:

[Recording](#) of Dine Pledge of Allegiance
Copies of [poem](#) Navajo Code Talkers to annotate
Highlighters or colored pencils (7 per student – partners can share)

Learning Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify the rhyme scheme
- Students will be able to justify which common theme matches the poem

Special Vocabulary:

- Code: MULTIPLE MEANING WORD: Code will both mean the secret code of the code talkers, but also a pattern. Color coding

Procedures:

Warm Up/Introduction Activity:

Play the recording of the Pledge of Allegiance in Dine (Navajo) for students to hear the sounds and rhythm of the language. (this is only about the 1st 40 seconds of the video)

Lesson:

Read the poem several times with students. Read it in a variety of ways. Have some fun with it! Some options are:

- Teacher reads, students follow
- Teacher reads one line and the students repeat (Dual Language strategy!)
- Read it in different voices to see which works with the mood of the poem
- Buddy read
- Small group read

After several readings, point out the cadence/rhythm of the poem. Connect to the warm up (the pledge in Dine).

Use the example of Jack and Jill to demonstrate how to color code a rhyme scheme of a poem.

Allow students to work in partners to highlight/underline with color the rhyme scheme of the poem.

Whole Class: Think/Pair/Share the theme of the poem – show slide of common themes. Allow for different answers

Wrap Up: Personal Connection: if you were to tell your life story, would you choose to:

- Write a poem?
- Paint a picture?
- Write a story?
- Other??