

Water & Nourishment

Length	75 or 90 min
Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on where your local water is sourced and treated. • Information on and photos of xeriscaping, such as demonstration gardens, plants, yards, etc. (Example: https://www.thespruce.com/xeriscape-landscaping-meaning-2131129) • “Fresh Water” and “The Cloud” excerpts (both provided at the end of the lesson).
Lesson Focus	Water as nourishment in urban settings
Learning Goals - Writing	Apply prose to different forms of literature. Practice with written poetry, blackout poetry, and application of key words discussed as a group to individualized poetry.
Learning Goals - Water	Inform writers about different urban uses of water, water sources, and water treatment. Apply this knowledge to the importance of fresh water on a global scale. Share information on conservation methods and local involvement.
Target Audience	Writers in urban or suburban settings of all ages.
Warm-Up Writing (15 mins)	Have writers free write for 5 mins on where they think water is used for in their city or town. Have writers share their thoughts.
Writing Prompt #1 (25 mins)	<p>How does your city or town get fresh water? Where does it come from and how is it treated? Share the answers of these questions with the writers (10 min) and have a discussion on what they knew and what they learned (5 min).</p> <p>Have writers brainstorm on their own at least five reasons having access to treated water is important. Share as a group and make a group list (10 min). Have writers pick five words from the group’s list and compose a poem that reflects what clean water means to them (10 mins).</p>
Writing Prompt #2 (20 mins)	Share information and photos of xeriscaping in your region and explain why urban water conservation is important (5 min). Have writers note down what types of plants they think

	would be successful xeriscaping plants and why (5 min). Have the group share what they have written then discuss what some of the plants actually are, including showing photos for xeriscaping yards and plants (5). Have writers write a short description of what they would want in their xeriscape yard and share with the group (5 min).
Writing Prompt #3 (15 mins)	Use the excerpt from “Fresh Water” in Our Planet by Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey to conduct black out poetry (10 min). Share a few results with the group. Discuss how this excerpt made you think about the importance of freshwater globally (5 min).
Writing Prompt #4 (15 mins, if a 90 min session)	A few different things to do using “The Cloud” by Percy Bysshe Shelley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read over the excerpted poem and consider the role of clouds in carrying and dispersing water as nourishment. ● Write about a memory that you have with a specific form of water. (Snow, ice, clouds, rain, rivers, etc.) ● Compose a concrete poem that is shaped like a form of water.
Wrap-up	Ask writers to share one or two things they learned and what they might take away from this lesson.

Our Planet Excerpt “Fresh Water”
 Source: Fothergill & Scholey, 2019, pg 71-73)

The world's greatest rivers are our planet’s arteries. Their flows maintain the water cycle, carrying rain falling on the land back to the oceans, where it evaporates into the air to create more rain. They are also breeding grounds and thoroughfares for nature, linking the planet's ecosystems. Rivers bring water from mountains to deserts. They bring migratory fish from the oceans to their spawning grounds far inland. And they bring rich silt that keeps flood plains fertile and protects estuarine cities from rising seas.

Above all they bring life. Nearly half of all the world’s fish species live in rivers. It is no coincidence that the world’s largest and most biodiverse rainforest occupies the drainage basin of the world’s largest river, the Amazon.

The great rivers also sustain humanity. Hundreds of millions of people depend on the flow of rivers for their food, either directly from catching fish or indirectly when flooding rivers

water their fields and pastures. That is why almost all civilizations began on major rivers, including ancient Egypt on the Nile, Mesopotamia on the Tigris and Euphrates, and China on the Yellow River.

Excerpt from “The Cloud” by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Source: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45117/the-cloud-56d2247bf4112>

I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,
From the seas and the streams;
I bear light shade for the leaves when laid
In their noonday dreams.
From my wings are shaken the dews that waken
The sweet buds every one,
When rocked to rest on their mother's breast,
As she dances about the sun.
I wield the flail of the lashing hail,
And whiten the green plains under,
And then again I dissolve it in rain,
And laugh as I pass in thunder.