

Teacher Model of the First Lines of an “If I Was a Country” Poem

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(This was the first year we did this project, so I used my own map and poem to model. Now I have student work to use as exemplaries!)

Workshop: Identify the way figurative language, overall word choice, and structure is used to enhance the reader’s understanding of individual and group identity, as well as geopolitical elements.

Examples:

- a quilt of zigzag mountains and dotted deserts
- beneath both clear skies and storm clouds
- steady vision of those I call my own; wild clan of...tribe of
- like the stones of Newgrange (using similes with actual landmarks)
- renewed by the mystery of Next Steppes (examine play on meaning with the use of Steppes and proper noun)

If I Was a Country (You may use this title or create your own.)

If I was a country, my name would be Whiglain.

My land would be a quilt of zig-zag mountains and dotted deserts

stretching beneath both clear skies and storm clouds.

If I was a country, I would be named for the wild clan of Wiggins

and the steady vision of those I call my own:

The tribe of Higgins, loyal and patient

I would be chiseled from rock, like the stones of Newgrange,

and renewed by the mystery of Next Steppes.

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