



WEEK 6

Look to the Future

Thinking back, what have you learned over the course of the summer? How can you use what you've learned to continue to be your own hero and strengthen your community?

Vision Board with Found Poetry

Your Quest:

Think about the future - your hopes and goals. These hopes and goals will help you with this activity. You will be creating a vision board with found poetry in the center, both of which will help you focus on what you would like to do in the future.

By embarking on this quest, you will gain the following skills:

- Looking towards to the future
- Self-expression through poetry
- Unlocking your creative side

Mission Materials:

- 1 sheet of blank paper for poster - ideally at least 8 ½" by 11", but it can be bigger, for the vision board
- White or colored sheets of paper - to copy phrases/words onto
- Scissors
- Glue
- Magazines to cut OR books to copy
- Coloring utensils - crayons, pencils, markers, sharpies, graphite, whatever you have

Mission Directions:

1. Gather materials.
2. Think about this past summer. When the summer started, did you think of where you would be a few months later? Were you thinking about camp? Maybe you thought about finishing a project that had taken all summer. Or maybe you were thinking of friends you could finally visit. While this activity is geared toward looking forward, it sometimes takes looking back to move forward.
3. Think about your hopes and dreams for the future. What do you want out of the next few months? Next few years? Maybe a new pet? Your dream job? A family? Good grades through the next school year? Travel more? You decide. There are a few ways you can



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think about this. You could write a list. Or if there's one big idea you are striving for, you can make an idea web for that. Do whatever works best for you.

4. Look through magazines or books (or both) for words and phrases that are reflective of your hopes and dreams of the future. Or just find words and phrases you like and are positive! Shoot for 15-20 words or phrases that reflect what you want to focus on in the future.
5. When you've found words or phrases that you want to use, cut them out of the magazines OR copy them onto paper if taking them from a book.
6. On the blank piece of paper, glue the words/phrases onto the main vision board in the form of a poem. The poem could rhyme or not rhyme. It can be in complete sentences or fragments. It can have one word per line, or all the words on the same line. The main thing to think about is this: how does it relate back to you. Congratulations, you just made a found poem!!
7. Around the poem, use this space to get creative! Draw out your dreams and hopes. If there are pictures in the magazines you used earlier, feel free to cut those out and use them to represent your hopes and dreams. You can also switch up the order of this step and step 6 if you want -- meaning that you can do your illustration/collage first, and then write your found poem after.
8. Once you are done, put the vision board in a place you can see it on a regular basis to remind yourself what you are looking forward to!

Level Up:

- Do the found poem and vision board separately and see how they come out. What's different? What's the same? Are they the same theme?
- Write a letter to your future self. It can be a letter to 18-year-old you, graduation-day you (high school or college, you decide), 21-year-old you, or any other you in the future. Include your hopes and dreams for that specific moment. Do you want a better relationship with someone or a group of people by the time you turn 18? Ask about it in the letter! Do you want to go to college? Ask about it in the letter! Do you want to be living alone by 21? Guess what - ask about it in the letter! Once the letter is written, seal it in an envelope and on the outside, write when to open it - high school graduation, a birthday, etc. Put it in a place you will remember to look at once that open date comes.

More to Explore at the Library:

- Figure out your hobbies and interests - join a club, look at the library's offerings for [classes and events](#). Go to one that you may not have otherwise chosen - you may find a new hobby!
- Learn a new language (or two) through our database [Mango Languages](#)

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- Search “concrete poetry” or “visual poetry” in our catalog or on [SimplyE](#), our ebook database, to see what others have done with found poems. You can also do any of those searches replacing “poetry” with “poems”. Here are a few we suggest:
 - [Brown Girl Dreaming](#) by Jacqueline Woodson
 - [Poetry Matters](#) by Ralph Fletcher
 - [Wet Cement](#) by Bob Raczka
 - [Blue Lipstick](#) by John Granditz
- For those looking ahead to jobs and careers, or are interested in learning what they may want to do in the future, check out our database called [Career Cruising](#). It can be a helpful tool to figure out part of the future!

Your Reward:

Make sure to visit NYPL’s Online Reading Portal through our partner Beanstack and log your completed activity to receive a special badge! Find our portal at nypl.org/summerreading.

Activity Author: Katie Loucks, Children’s Librarian, Mosholu Library

