

Spring/Summer Rainbow Journaling Activity

Pre-Reading

Knoxville, Tennessee

by Nikki Giovanni

I always like summer
best
you can eat fresh corn
from daddy's garden
and okra
and greens
and cabbage
and lots of
barbecue
and buttermilk
and homemade ice-cream
at the church picnic
and listen to
gospel music
outside
at the church
homecoming
and go to the mountains with
your grandmother
and go barefooted
and be warm
all the time
not only when you go to bed
and sleep

(from The Academy of American Poets)

Reading Questions

Read this poem aloud at least **three** times.
After you have read, please consider the
following questions:

- 1) What are your favorite flavors in this poem?
- 2) What are your favorite sounds?
Which words *sound* the most exciting to you? Why?
- 3) What *places* can you see most clearly in this poem?
- 4) What images do you connect with the most? Why?
- 5) Why are summers important to the author? What do you think?
- 6) What is *your* favorite season and why is it important to you?

Spring/Summer Rainbow Journaling

Directions: Treat yourself to enjoying some summer memories while also practicing writing with your five senses (sensory detail skills). Set a timer for three minutes per color station and don't stop writing until the timer is up or you run out of space, whichever comes first! Once you are finished, move immediately to the next station.


Red: Describe your favorite summer lunch using all five senses!

A large rectangular box with a light red gradient background, intended for writing about a favorite summer lunch.

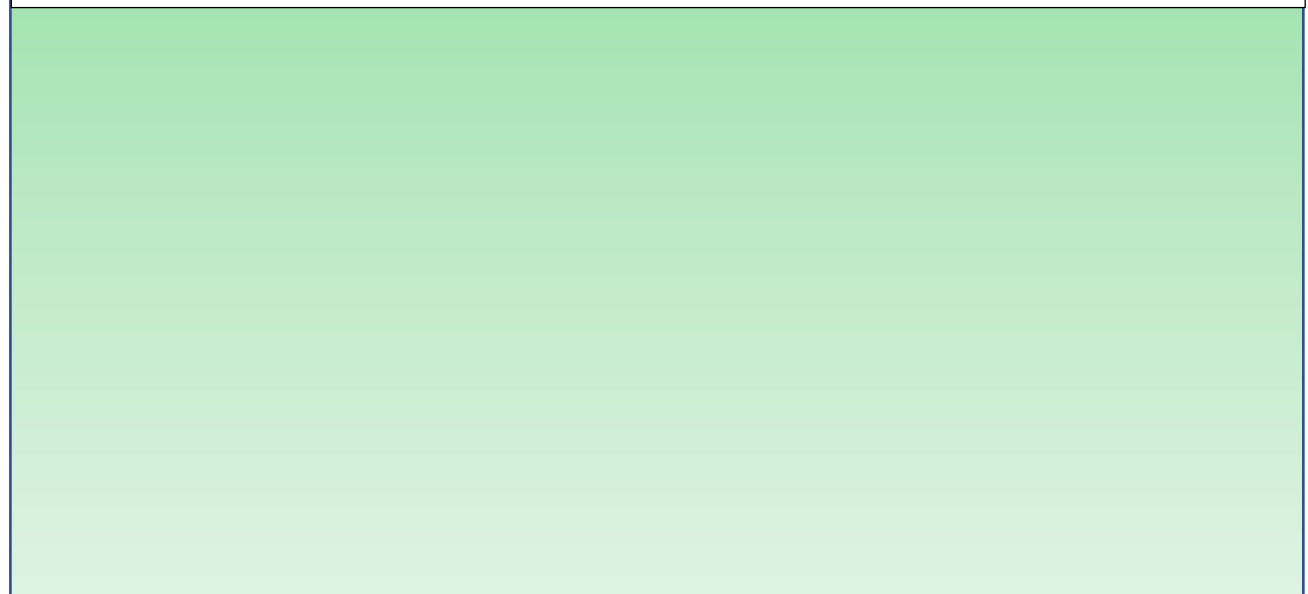
Orange: Describe your favorite popsicle or ice cream using all five senses. Yes, even sound!

A large rectangular box with a light orange gradient background, intended for writing about a favorite popsicle or ice cream.

Yellow: Describe the sun as if you were describing it to someone who had never seen it before. You can use any word to describe the sun **EXCEPT** the word “yellow”

A large, empty rectangular area with a yellow background, intended for writing a description of the sun.

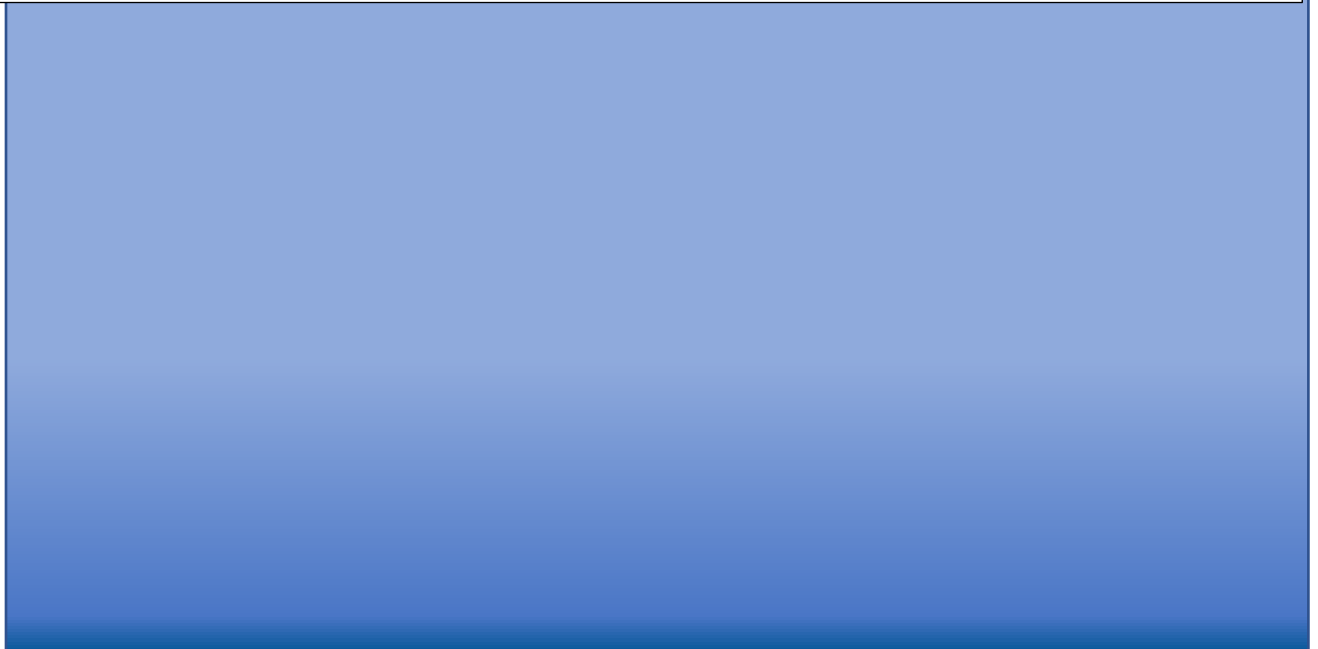
Green: Write a series of similes to describe a blade of grass. Come up with as many as you can. They don't have to make complete sense and you have permission to sound weird. Remember, keep writing until you run out of space! A simile is when you use “like” or “as” to make a comparison between two unlike items. Example: A blade of grass is like a dry and scratchy waterslide. A blade of grass is like papercuts growing from the dirt. Your turn!

A large, empty rectangular area with a green background, intended for writing a series of similes to describe a blade of grass.

Blue: What is the coolest cloudscape you've ever seen? Describe what the sky looked like. Make sure to get as precise as you can about textures and colors. You can also try looking out a window or going outside to study today's sky.



Indigo: Describe a water memory—celebrate a scene from any source of water that has brought you a sense of joy or tranquility in your life. It could be an ocean, lake, pond, pool, puddle, bathtub, busted fire hydrant, etc.



Violet: Describe your favorite flower like you are taking a close-up photograph. Zoom in as closely as possible with your detail. Illustrate every part of the flower.



Reflection: Now that you have completed the rainbow journaling stations, read over what you have written. What do you notice about your writing as you move from station to station? What are your favorite images? What do you love most about spring and/or summer?