

Linda Johnson
Lesson Plan for “Flowers For Marjorie”

This lesson will be part of a three story Eudora Welty unit that will also include “Old Mr. Marblehall” and “A Curtain of Green.” Throughout the unit, we will be specifically focusing on how the author uses flower and garden imagery. I also hope to include photographs from the Welty garden and discuss how it might have influenced her writing.

Aim: How does Eudora Welty use flower imagery throughout “Flowers for Marjorie”?

Word of the Day: deluge (n.): a sudden heavy downpour of rain or a torrent of water; an overwhelming amount of something

Journal Entry: Looking at images of yellow pansies and red roses, describe these flowers and what emotions or words they evoke.

From their entries, students will write words on the board that connect with each of the flowers.

Questions:

- Read the section aloud in which Howard is obsessing over the **pansy**. Discuss the following:
 - Why does the pansy cause Howard such “despair,” yet it brings Marjorie “pride”?
 - What do the colors of the pansy (yellow with dark red veins) on Marjorie’s old blue coat convey?
 - Why does Howard imagine such a violent scene when he tears the flower apart?
 - What language does Welty use in association with this flower? (Specifically, “anxious sight,” “crevasses,” “blazed,” etc.) Why? What is the impact on the reader?

- Later in the story, after he kills Marjorie, **red roses** become central. Read the last two pages of the story aloud and discuss the following:
 - Where and why does he receive the bouquet of red roses?
 - As he runs down Sixth Avenue, Welty describes the flowers as “nodding like heads in his arm.” Discuss the imagery.
 - How is the language in this section different from that of the pansy section?
 - Why does Howard continue to hold the bouquet when he approaches the cop? Describe the imagery.
 - Why do the little girls pick up the fallen roses at the end? What is the significance?

- Why is the story entitled “Flowers for Marjorie”?

Homework: Answer the aim in a 3-4 paragraph response. Be sure to use multiple examples from the story to support your opinion.