

Speech 1: Informative: Poet

Name: Davina Ramirez

Specific Purpose: Inform class about Countee Cullen, a Harlem Renaissance poet, and discuss the power of words on children.

Central Idea: “Incident” illustrates how a single word can last forever in a child’s mind. Also gives info. about a dangerous, hurtful word.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

1. Source(s): In what source did you find your poem?

<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/55>

http://american-poetry.suite101.com/article.cfm/countee_cullens_incident

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poet.html?id=1538>

2. Visual Aid(s): If you use a picture, where did you locate it?

<http://newdeal.feri.org/magpie/images/dwc121.jpg>

INTRODUCTION

I. (Attention Getter)

“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” Kids rhyme. Is it true?

II. (Reveal Topic)

“Incident” – very popular poem, power of word to hurt, power of racist words, from great Af. Am. poet

III. (Credibility Statement) or (Relevancy Statement)

If you’re new to the country you may not know the power of “the N word.” Has a strong history. I want you to BE CAREFUL!

Also, small “incidents” in childhood can last a lifetime. Parents – BE CAREFUL!

IV. (Preview)

First, his life

Second, listen to the poem

Finally, meaning to me

(TRANSITION: From the Intro to the Body. Include the exact wording you will use in your speech.)

Ready? Let’s go!

BODY

I. **MAIN POINT 1:** Your first main point goes here. It MUST be one complete sentence.

So who was this poet, Countee Cullen?

A. Life.

Born: 1903, NYC Died, 1946

Started writing - 14

Started university – 1922 (19 y. o.)

Graduated 1923 (after **1 year!**)

Published in many mag.s

B. Culture / Attitude to race.

Black man, raised by white family

Believed in “color-blind” society – “Race should not matter”

Ironically! Best poems **about** race

(Transition: Let's move on to his poetry.)

II. **MP 2:** Your second MAIN POINT goes here. Follow the same style that you used for the first one.

So, what was Cullen's best-known poem? "Incident"

A. Read poem 1ce

B. Read poem 2ce

(Transition: Did you get it?)

III. **MP 3:** Your final MAIN POINT goes here. Follow the same style that you used for the first one.

So, what does this mean?

I can tell you 2 possible meanings, both important to me.

A. This word is part of Am history

(Point to screen) This is "N word" -

Often heard in rap

I used to use this word singing/rapping to favorite songs as teenager

Change in attitude (teenager to now)

History – I didn't know history, now I do

Please remember this history – don't make my mistake

B. Also another meaning here

"Small pitchers have big ears" – Children are so sensitive!

Cullen always remembered this terrible moment, all children are like this

Be careful with kids!

TRANSITION: (From Body to Conclusion. Include the exact wording)

Well, my time is up today ...

CONCLUSION - Your reason for choosing the poem may go here

I. (Summary Statement)

Today I've shared some info about CC

Remember – his name, the Harlem Renaissance

And please – remember this poem and its lessons

II. (Memorable Closing Statement)

"Sticks and stones ..."

What do you think now?