



Hope at Hand

“Kandinsky Circles”

Directions

1. Read: “Circle Poem” by anonymous.
2. Read: “Power of the Circle” by Black Elk.
3. Read: Excerpt from “Finding What You Didn’t Lose” by John Fox.
4. Write: After reading and discussing the readings, students will create their own circle poems. These poems use very few words, just nine, that relate to each other in odd and creative ways. Each poem will have 9 lines, including the title, with one word in every line. Each word in the poem should relate to the words directly before and after it.
5. Art: Impressionist Circles inspired by Kandinsky
 - One piece of your color paper should be a 9-inch square; this is your base paper. Set aside your square piece of paper.
 - Trace 4-5 circles on the remaining color paper in varying colors and sizes. Cut out your circles— they do not have to be perfect circles! Remember this is an abstract art project.
 - Lay down your base paper and then layer your circles on top. Glue them into place. Transfer your circle poem onto your Kandinsky Circle project, then you’re all done!

Please bring an example of the art activity to your session—ideally one you’ve made yourself. A full-color example is included at the end of this document. *If needed, print it elsewhere, as color printing is not permitted on the office printer.*

Materials

Scissors, glue, colored construction paper, and pencils.

A circle expresses wholeness. When we sit in a circle with others, not everything is healed nor are all problems solved. However, we are reminded of our oneness in a circle. If a circle is joining together of equals, it should not impose upon you or limit you. There is freedom in the circle to express yourself creatively, and there is respect for others in the circle. Within the circle, we can share the truth of our lives.

Writing on the page is much like talking into the open space inside a circle. You can write upon the page, and the page will give your words room and contain them. Both the circle and the page will listen to you speak. And as part of the circle, you become a listener as well.

It is natural than to bring writing and circles together. In our busy and complex lives, it is nurturing to have a place where others welcome the poet in you...

An open circle... nourishes its participants and their originality. It allows for each person's full expression. Our joy and sorrow, our delights and struggles, will all be heard in the open circle. In the process of speaking, listening, and hearing, the circle breathes life into a creative community.

Excerpt from *Finding What You Didn't Lose* by John Fox

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Excerpt from *Finding What You Didn't Lose* by John Fox

Oglala Sioux Holy Man

by Black Elk

You have noticed that everything an Indian does is in a circle, and that is because the Power of the World always works in circles, and everything tries to be round.

In the old days when we were a strong and happy people, all our power came to us from the sacred hoop of the nation, and as long as the hoop was unbroken, the people flourished.

The flowering tree was the living center of the hoop, and the circle of the four quarters nourished it. The east gave peace and light, the south gave warmth, the west gave rain, and the north with its cold and mighty wind gave strength and endurance. This knowledge came to us from the outer world with our religion.

Everything the Power of the World does is in a circle. The sky is round, and I have heard that the earth is round like a ball, and so are all the stars. The wind, in its greatest power, whirls, Birds make their nests in circles, for their is the same religion as ours. The sun comes forth and goes down again in a circle. The moon does the same, and both are round. Even the seasons form a great circle in their changing, and always come back again to where they were.

The life of a man is a circle from childhood to adulthood, and so it is in everything where power moves. Our teepees were round like the nests of birds, and these were always set in a circle, the nation's hoop, a nest of many nests, where the Great Spirit meant for us to hatch our children.

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Circle Poem

by Anonymous

Circles
surrounded by them,
you wonder which way
they actually turn.

You spin around
in a dizzy haze
making life follow you
at each turn.

They have no beginning
and no end
not a corner or point
nor a side, too.

I live in a circle
my circle
my zone.
This is my space
let me be,
taking my chance
is the life for me.

So whatever the
shape or form of life,
take your circle
and live your life.

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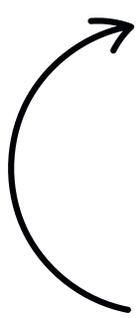
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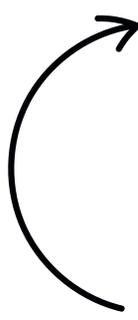
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Circle Poems

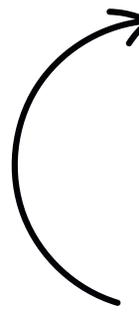
- Circle Poems use just nine words. Through thoughtful and creative thinking, the words of the poem relate to each other in odd and quirky ways.
- You will have nine lines in your poem, including the title, with one word per line. There should be “a-ha” moments as you read the poem.
- Each word must relate to the word directly before and the word after. This also means the last word of the poem should relate to the first word, to complete the circle.



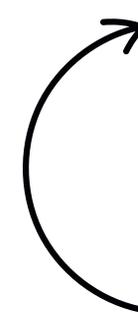
Mirror
reflection
sea
glasses
shot
gun
arms
two
twins



Letter
alphabet
soup
hot
fire
hose
garden
party
thank you



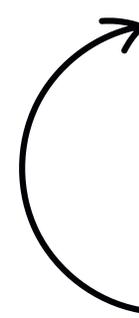
Flag
stars
night
fence
picket
line
signature
Hancock
American



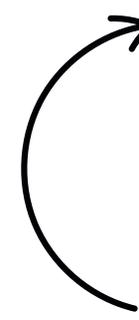
Tissue
paper
note
staff
wizard
spell
bee
sting
cry

Circle Poems

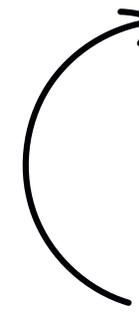
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twins



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hot
fire
hose
garden
party
thank you



Flag
stars
night
fence
picket
line
signature
Hancock
American



Tissue
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note
staff
wizard
spell
bee
sting
cry

Circle Poems

Instructions: You will write 9 lines with 1 word per line. Each word only relates to the words directly before and after it. The first word is the title and should be capitalized and bolded to set it apart from the rest of the poem. Remember to relate the last word of the poem to the title word.

My circle poems:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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Kandinsky Circles

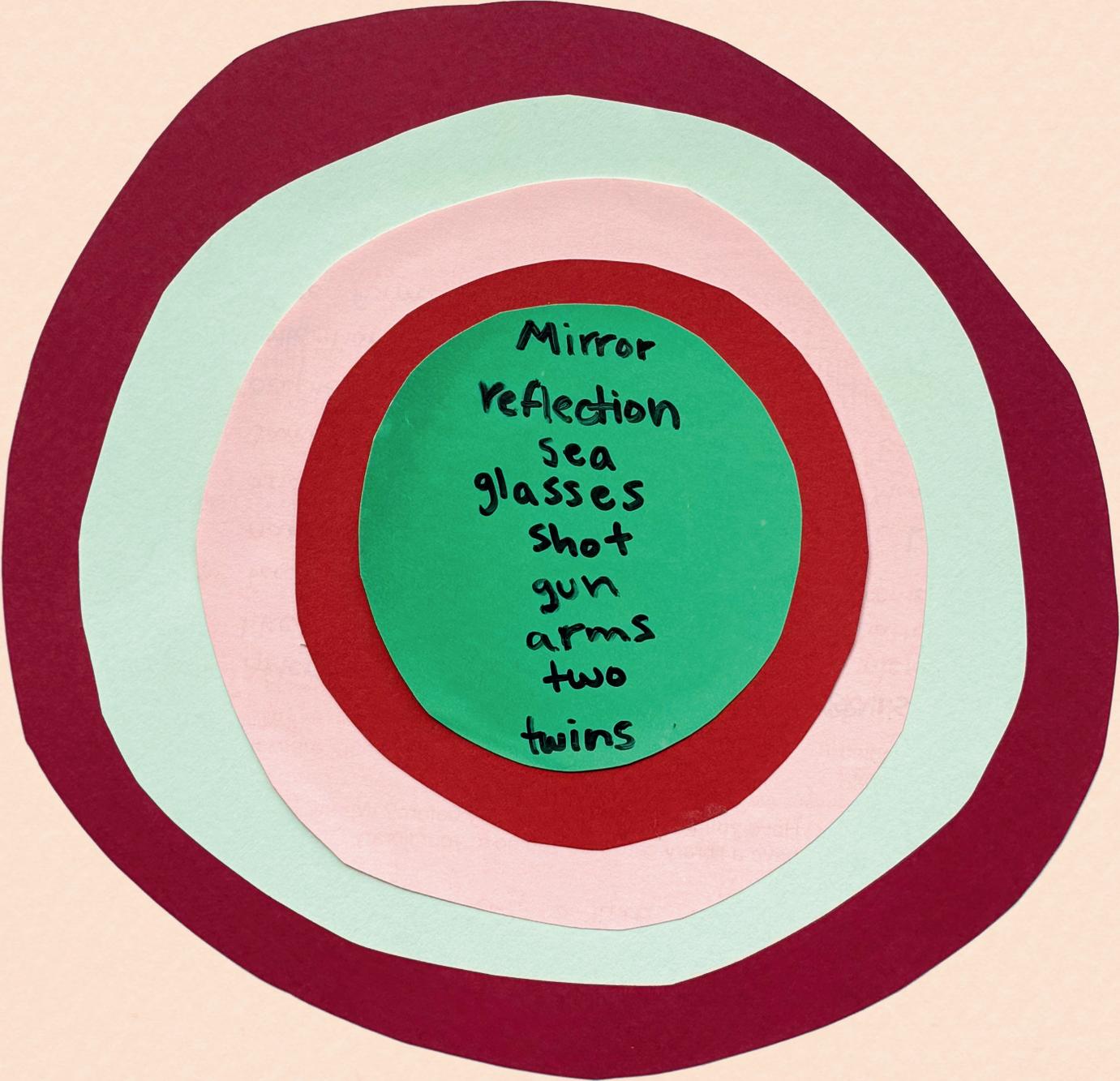


Wassily Kandinsky, a Russian artist from the late 1800s, was inspired by the loose painting style of impressionists and ended up pioneering the abstract art movement. This mural is a copy of one of his most popular paintings and today you will be creating an art project inspired by Kandinsky's Circles.

Kandinsky Circles



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