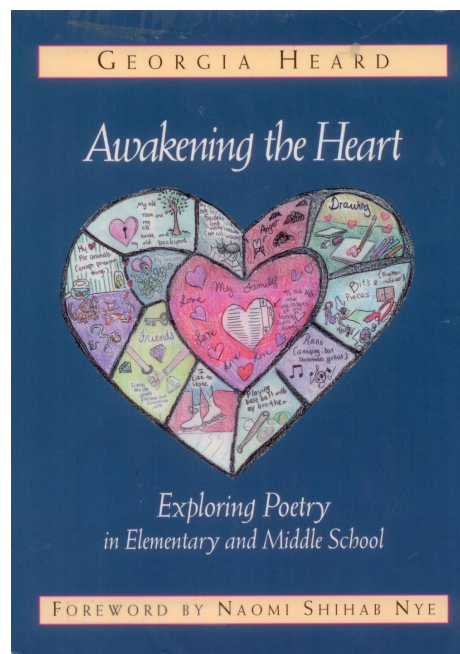


Heart Mapping and Writing

Presented by Georgia Heard



Heart Mapping: Writing From the Heart

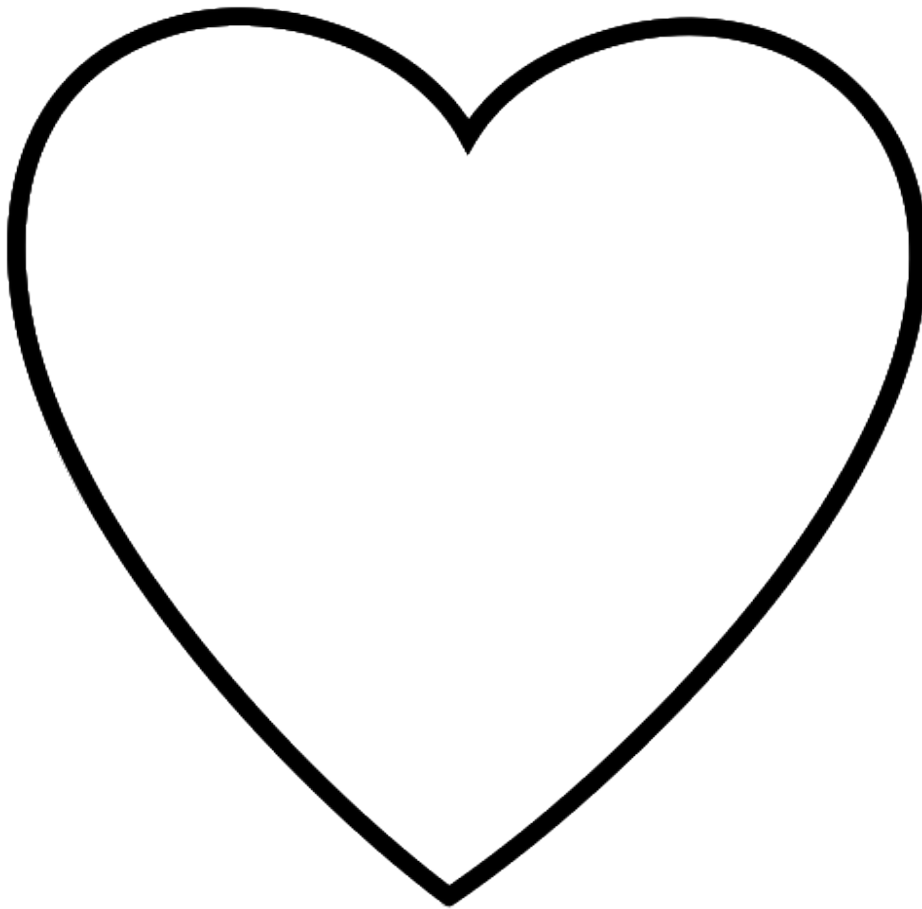
Directions

1. Show students the Heart Map Template, or create your own. Start from the center of the heart, placing the most important person, place, or thing in the center of your heart. Then, work your way out using specific words in each section. Be sure to talk about each section as you're placing it on your map (e.g., "I always saw my grandparents in December. Therefore, I'm going to write 'December with Grandma and Grandpa' in my heart since I have so many memories of spending time with them at that time of the year.>").
2. Take time to answer students' questions before passing out a blank heart map to each student. Encourage students to color in sections of their heart (e.g., they might want to color code it: purple for people, green for places, blue for things, yellow for ideas) once they've filled in all of the sections.
3. Once all students have drawn their heart maps, photograph each map with a digital camera so you can print out several copies of the heart maps for them to keep in all of the places where they write. You might choose to hang up their original heart maps in the classroom to help on those days when students cannot come up with something to write about on their own. Students can tape their heart maps into writer's notebooks for inspiration.
4. Each day during writing time, have students use different sections of their heart maps to craft a story, poem, memoir or essay. Encourage them to pick a handful of ideas, people, or places from their map, and incorporate them into their writing. Or, have them start with one person, place, or memory, and build off of it.
5. Have students present their heart maps and writing to the class. Give ample time for sharing.

from *Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School* by Georgia Heard (Heinemann) heard_georgia@yahoo.com

Heart Mapping: Writing from the Heart

What's special in your life? Fill this heart with people, places and memories that are most important to you. Be creative with shapes and sizes and color code using the key below.



Things I do in my free time
People I care about

Places I've lived in/visited
Favorite memories

Heart Mapping: Writing from the Heart

Some questions to help you get started heart mapping:

What memories have you stored in your heart (they don't have to be BIG or exciting memories. For example, the smell of molasses cookies baking in the oven at my grandmother's house is an important memory to me because it was something she would always do.)

What people have been important to you – and why?

What are some experiences or events that you will never forget?

What happy or sad memories do you have?

What secrets do you keep in your heart?

What things or objects are important to you -- for example, a tree in your backyard or a stuffed animal, etc.?

What's at the center of your heart – you might want to place the most important people, memories, and experiences in the center?

Ask yourself if you want to keep some things inside your heart and less important things on the outside of your heart.

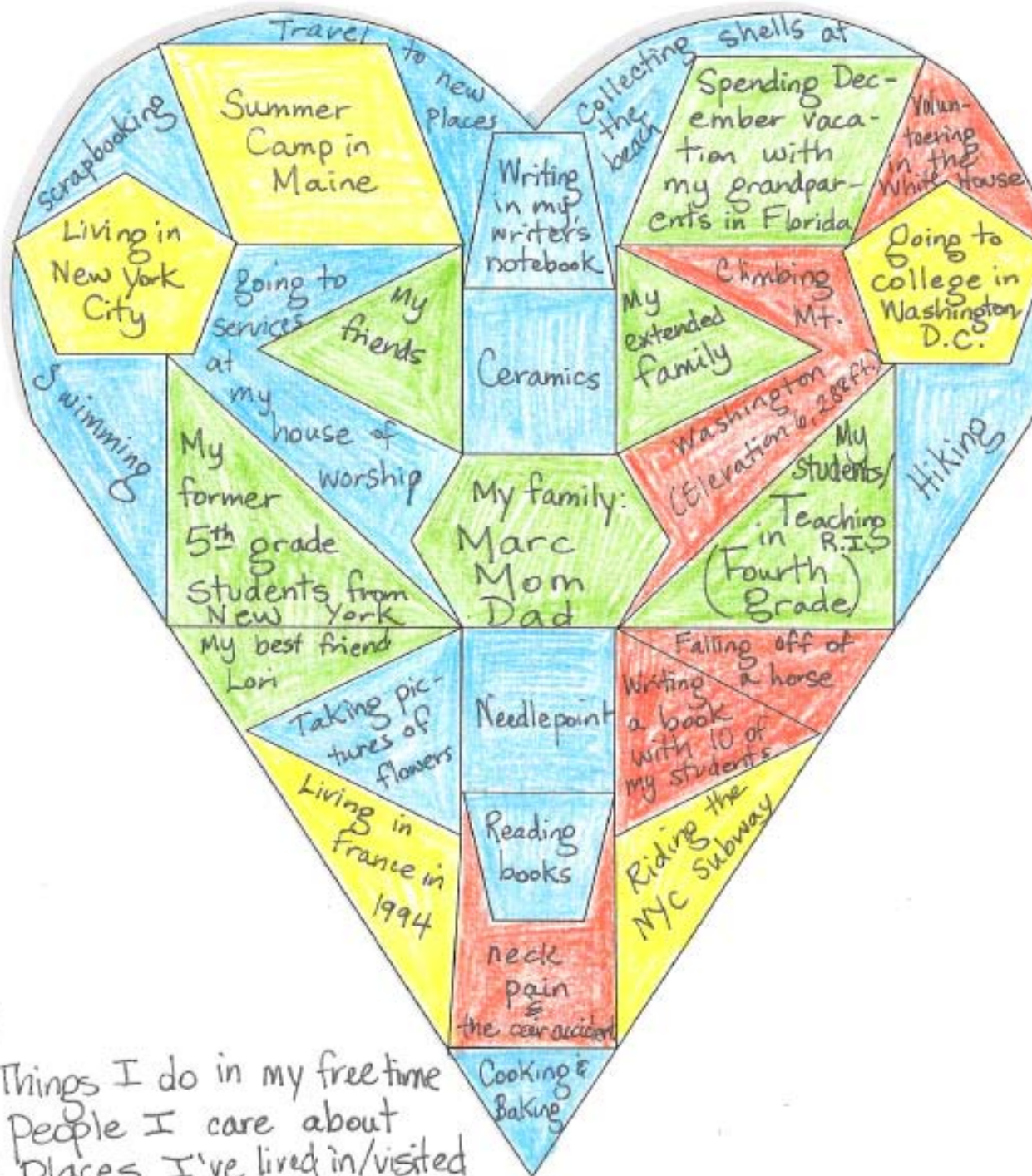
Do you want to draw more than one heart – good and bad; happy and sad; secret and open – and include different things inside each heart?

Do different colors represent different emotions, events, and relationships?

Try not to just write one word (pets, nature, etc.) but instead use very specific words. Later, when you write from your heart map it will help remind you of exactly what you want to say.

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Heart Mapping: Writing from the Heart (Example)



Key:

- = Things I do in my free time
- = People I care about
- = Places I've lived in/visited
- = Defining moments