

## What's Free?

Developed for Poetry Out Loud 2021/22

**Name of Lesson:** Free Verse Poem

**Standards Addressed:** W.9-10.2.d-e; W.11-12.2d-e; W.9-10.3; W.11-12.3;  
W.9-10.4; W.11-12.4; SL.9-10.4; SL.11-12.4; SL.9-10.6; SL.11-12.6

**Lesson Focus:** MLK was a man who stood on equal rights and freedom for all. A true hero who changed the world because he was firm on his beliefs. MLK day is this month. In honor of Doctor Martin Luther King Jr scholars will be writing a free verse poem about freedom. Write a poem about the word freedom and what that word means to you.

**Learning Objectives:** The objective of this lesson is to open the scholar's mind to the deeper meaning behind words. We often say words loosely without knowing the power behind them. I want the scholars to dive deep into the meaning and come up with their own definition.

**Materials Needed:**

Pencil  
Paper

**Resource Video:**

[https://youtu.be/NwFe\\_9I6O00](https://youtu.be/NwFe_9I6O00)

**Activity:**

As a class, in small groups, or individually, take ~10 minutes to brainstorm ideas about freedom. This is a free verse poem meaning the poem is free from limitations of regular meter or rhythm, and does not rhyme with fixed forms. Such poems are without rhythm and rhyme schemes, do not follow regular rhyme scheme rules, yet still provide artistic expression.

**Things to think about:**

- What is the definition of freedom?
- What does the word freedom mean to you?
- Do you feel free?
- How do we become free?