

The Cloud Factory

Lesson plan

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Target group: Brugklas HAVO/VWO / 1st year MBO

Introduction (pre-activity)

Tell the students that we are going to deal with poetry today. Ask the students if they ever read poetry, if they like poetry and if they know any poets.

Let them listen to the following clips on YouTube, these are videos of Christopher Walken and Jude Law who read part of the lyrics of Lady Gaga's song Poker Face.

Christopher Walken reads Lady Gaga's poker face

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJDx3H_hvI8

Jude Law reads Lady Gaga's poker face

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXnZZWO2Uq4>



Do the students recognize the lyrics?

Play the song **Poker Face**. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bESGLojNYSo>

The idea is that the students realize that the lyrics to a song can also be presented as a poem!

The poem

Tell the students that you are going to read/sing/play the poem/song *The Cloud Factory* by Bill Caddick. They will have to listen, but may read along if they like.

Read/sing/play the poem/song *The Cloud Factory*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMYYkDJDUYI>

After listening to the poem, let the students answer the questions / do the activities on the student worksheet

Post-activity

Homework: find a song that can be presented as a poem. Let some students present their "poem" in the next lesson.

The Cloud Factory by Bill Caddick

My father worked in the cloud factory
He'd come home wreathed in dreams each day
My mother took his cloudy clothes
To wash the smell of dreams away
She'd scold and say "you and your dreams,
They're just for kids and fools like you"
But father he'd just wink his eye
Smile, and say "Are you sure that's true?"

My mother thought him fanciful
She used to chide him all the while
But me, I thought him wonderful
I'd do anything to see him smile
I used to hear him singing low
These words are with me to this day
"You have to hold onto your dreams
Or else they simply slip away"

My father taught me how to sing
To sing that dreams are everything
They can't be bought and can't be sold
For more than silver, more than gold.

The last time I saw him, ill and dying
Was the only time I saw him cry
No time left for dreams to come true
As he watched his last cloud drifting by
Back home she opened windows wide
And out the dreams flew strand by strand
Till all but one had flown away
I caught and kept it in my hand

My mother doesn't do much lately
No clouds now to wash away
and since they closed the factory down
No dreams seem to come this way

I caught her sitting, alone and still
At first I thought her fast asleep
But father's coat was in her lap
Around her feet the dreams lay deep

She said "He taught me how to sing,
To sing that dreams are everything
Can't be bought and can't be sold
For more than silver, more than gold".

Sometimes I walk past the disused factory
And I gaze into the empty sky
And if I let the fancy take me
A dream or two comes drifting by

I'll teach my children how to sing
To sing that dreams are everything
They can't be bought and can't be sold
For more than silver, more than gold

My father taught me how to sing
To sing that dreams are everything
They can't be bought and can't be sold
For more than silver, more than gold.

1. The poem is about dreams –what are your dreams? What dreams did you have when you were young?



2. How do the ideas of the mother change throughout the song? What is it that changes?

3. What do dreams cost, according to the father?

4. What is a Cloud Factory? Explain.

5. Write your own poem about dreams (min. 4 lines)

6. What is the difference between cloud, clouds and cloudy? Can you think of any other examples (e.g. dirt, dirty, wobble, wobbles, wobbly)

7. Choose the correct translation of the words in the left column

wreathed	voorbij drijven (als in wolk)
scold	fantasie
fool	op de kop geven, bekijven
fanciful	idiot, dwaas
strand by strand	niet meer in gebruik
to drift	fantasierijk
disused	stuk voor stuk
to gaze	naar een plek kijken
the fancy	omhuld

8. Find a song that can be presented as a poem. Your teacher will let some students present their "poem" in the next lesson