

Lesson Plan for Teaching *Heart to Heart* **Designed by Clarice M. Moran**

For: grades 8–12

Time: 90-minute block period

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.3

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to analyze meaning and word choice in a poem and a song.
2. Students will be able to create writing territories that are meaningful to them for future writing tasks.
3. Students will be able to define and give an example for the literary term “synecdoche.”
4. Students will be able to synthesize several texts and their use of figurative language.

Essential Questions:

- * How do authors use figurative language to enhance their writing?
- * What does it mean to “give your heart” to someone?
- * What heartfelt ideas resonate with us? How can we use these ideas as a springboard for our writing?

Launch (10-15 minutes):

1. Ask students to write down their responses to the following freewrite prompt: What does it mean to “give” your heart to someone? Have you ever given your heart to anyone? If so, why? If not, why not?
2. Brief sharing of responses.

Instructional Sequence (60 minutes):

1. Divide students into groups and ask them to discuss the following questions: Why does giving your heart away feel so dangerous? Why do we equate hearts with love? How can we use our hearts and our vulnerability to create authentic writing?
2. Ask each group to summarize their responses to the questions for the whole class.
3. Tell students that authors have written about the heart for hundreds of years. The heart even figures in popular songs.

4. Play: Bruce Springsteen's, "Everybody's Got a Hungry Heart," video and song.
<https://youtu.be/0My2AqPFpFg>

5. In their groups, ask students to answer the questions: What do you think Springsteen means when he says that "everybody's got a hungry heart?" Do you agree with him?

6. Write on the board the word *synecdoche* and offer this definition: a literary device in which the part stands in for the whole.

7. Ask students if they can think of any examples of synecdoche. One example; "Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears" from *Julius Caesar*. In this line, Marc Antony doesn't want only ears but the attention of the people. Another example: *The White House issued a decree*. The White House building didn't actually do anything, but the sentence implies that the people who work inside the building issued the decree.

8. Read out loud: Rita Dove's "Heart to Heart."

9. Listen to Dove's recording of the poem in a second reading:
<https://soundcloud.com/poets-org/rita-dove-heart-to-heart>

10. Lead a whole-class discussion of the poem: How does the last line of the poem relate to the idea of synecdoche? What does Dove mean when she says, "it's all yours now, but you'll have to take me too"

11. Activity: Heart map creation. Heart maps are drawings of hearts with pictures and words of all the things that one "loves" written on them. Show students examples of heart maps (Heard, 2016).

12. The teacher should supply a model of their own heart map, which they have created prior to the lesson.

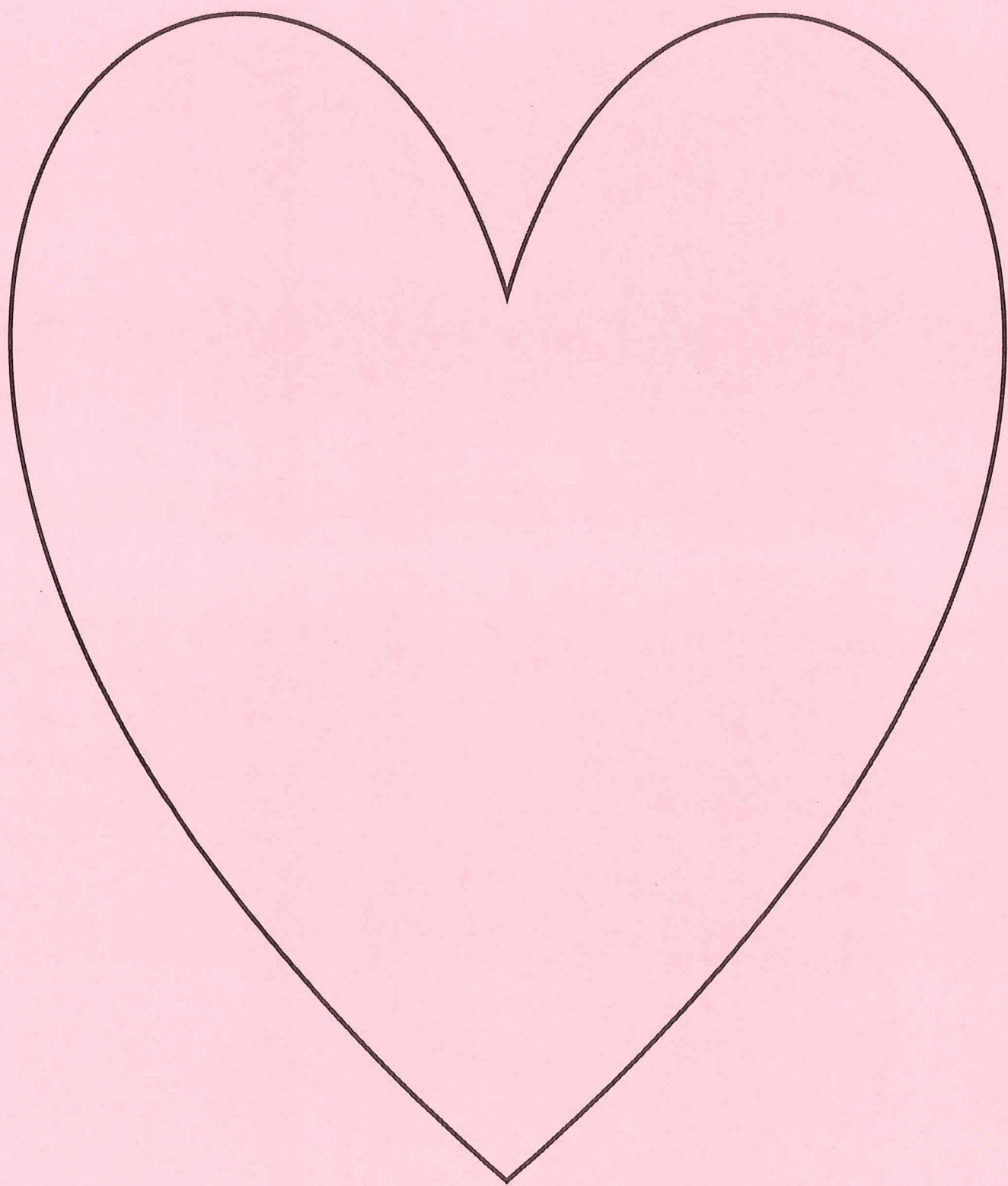
13. Pass out colored paper and colored markers. Ask students to draw a heart on the paper. Then, ask them to write people, places, ideas, and things that they love on the paper. These will be used as writing territories later.

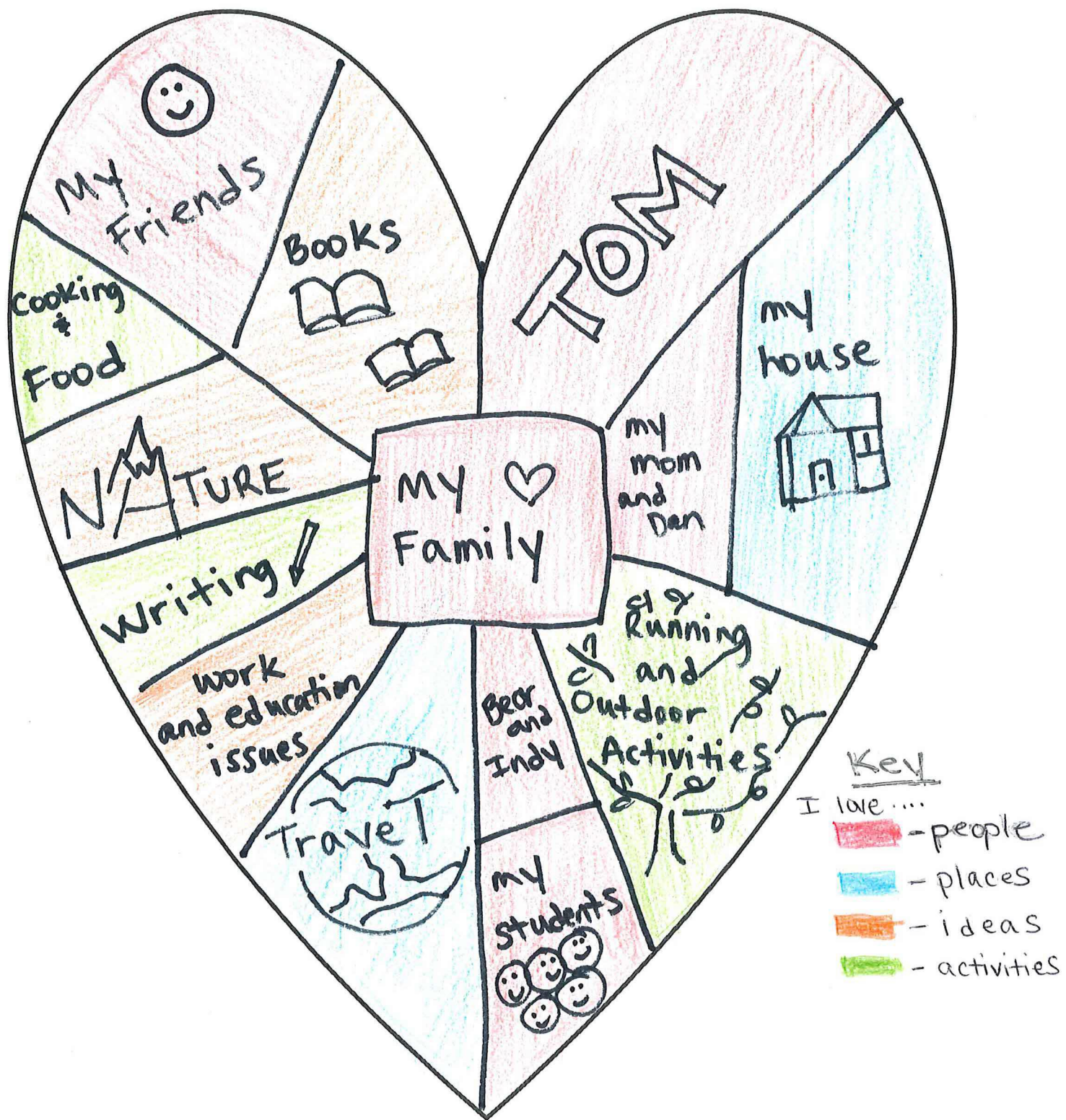
Closing: (5 minutes)

1. Tell students that giving their heart to another means giving more than just love. It also means giving of the whole self.

2. Ask students to share their heart maps with each other in pairs or groups. Collect the heart maps to post in the room.

3. Tell students that they will use the heart maps to help spark their writing later.





Dr. Moran's Heart Map