

Children's Author Cheryl Minnema

Grades 4-6

Time: 3 class periods, or 1 week

Objectives:

- Students will write journal entries inspired by nature.
- Students will engage with the natural world and reflect on their place in it.

Watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwHgMh-shf8&feature=youtu.be>

Optional:

Read "Johnny's Pheasant" in class.

Discussion questions:

1. Why do you think Minnema chose to write about a boy finding a pheasant? Why is this story important enough to write?
2. What do you think of when you think of nature?
3. How does nature effect your daily life?

For Students:

"The more you read, the more you learn."

- Cheryl Minnema

Nature is all around us. Authors like Cheryl Minnema draw their inspiration from the natural world, and human interactions with it. For this assignment, you will pay very close attention to how the natural world effects you. Every day this week, you will write down your experiences with nature— this could be your walk to school, the birds and squirrels in the trees during recess, a walk in the woods or by the lake, a fishing trip, or any other time you are outside in nature.

Notice what you see. Are there animals? What are they doing? What is the weather like? Do you know what kinds of trees are around you? What plants are in season, and where are they

growing? How does nature make you feel? What do you think about when you're outside in nature?

Keep a detailed journal about what nature is doing all around you. At the end of the week, share any surprises or interesting stories you may have collected with your class.

Reflection/discussion questions:

1. What can we learn in nature that we can't learn in a classroom?
2. Why do so many artists and authors find inspiration from nature?
3. What can we do to protect nature for the future?