

Writing-Prompt Activities/Susan Roche

Doo-Dads

- Spread out on a table a bunch of small objects you've collected. Have more objects than participants.
- Ask participants to circle round the table to choose one object that they're drawn to. Encourage them to handle several objects as they consider what to choose.
- Guide participants in staring at their object from all angles, and then in touching it with eyes closed.
- Ask them to write for a few minutes about one of these:
 - ** This object reminds me...
 - ** If I were this object, I could ...
 - ** Once upon a time ...
 - ** Holding this object ...
- Participants' writings can stand as-is. Or participants can circle the most powerful words, phrases, or lines that they've written and begin to build a poem around those.

Examples of doo-dads:

a string of colored paper clips	dice, board-game pieces
wind-up toys	magnifying glass
miniature Mister Potato Head	seashell
small magnets	spool of thread
feathers	keys
ribbons, shoelaces	mood ring
tiny, empty box	interesting stones, wood pieces
spinning top	buttons
handful of artificial Easter-basket grass	bottle caps
colorful eraser	coins
a slinky	plastic animals
jewelry	miniature bottle