

# THE LIFE OF MIGUEL PIÑERO

Date: Monday, Week 4  
Name: Andie Levine

Period/Class Title: Per. 2, Spanish 3  
Number of students: 34

## OBJECTIVE:

Students will discover the life of Miguel Piñero and be able to assess and criticize the decisions he made and the works he created.

## MATERIALS:

- 1 copy of the poem, “A Lower East Side Poem,” found at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/o/m/omf101/assignment3.html>
- 1 microphone with stand
- 1 flashlight
- 35 copies of the article, “La historia de Miguel Piñero llega al cine,” found at <http://www.elconfesionario.net/noticias/80.htm>
- 35 Spanish/English dictionaries
- 20 pencils (for students who do not have one)

## NOTES:

Johnny Lopez has already made his disdain for poetry very obvious. He most likely will immediately complain and refuse to do the exercise. Try to enroll him immediately with the slam poetry recitation of “A Lower East Side Poem.”

## STEPS:

- 1) Turn out the lights and tell students to stay quiet while taking roll quickly
- 2) Read the poem, “A Lower East Side Poem,” to the class; speak into a microphone and shine flashlight on my face
- 3) Ask students to free write in the journal about their reaction to the poem
- 4) Give a short background and introduction to the popular culture icon of slam poetry, Miguel Piñero
- 5) Hand out the article, “La historia de Miguel Piñero llega al cine”
- 6) Read article
- 7) Explain agenda for the next few days
- 8) Assign homework
- 9) Clean up

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

Homework: Students will answer the following question in their independent thinking journal, “How do you feel about the glorification of drug use for entertainment value?”

## LITERACY ASPECT:

Students will do a free write, analyzing their thoughts after having heard the Piñero poem. They will then read the article about Piñero and try to comprehend as much as they possibly can in Spanish. For homework, they will write out their thoughts on the homework assignment and become more comfortable with the writing process.

REFLECTION/RESPONSE:

It took students a second to get into the slam poetry reading of the poem, but once they bought into the style, they were hooked. They really seemed to want to learn about Piñero after seeing his poetry read in the style that it was meant to be read. The students also seem very curious to learn more about Piñero in the days to come. Maybe in the future, I can get a guest speaker to come in and read the poem. I think the students would be very interested in hearing another voice, and they might respect the art of slam poetry more if they see it from a true poet.