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Lens 6: *The Orange Houses*

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Paul Griffin’s *The Orange Houses* would be a fantastic text to implement into a young adult classroom. Not only are there numerous lessons to be learned within the novel and a sense of reliability found on every page, but this text also presents an opportunity to teach this novel in a unique, engaging, and compelling way. Part of what makes this text so appealing to some is its use of rhyming and poetry-like passages. It would be a great opportunity to open a new door for students and branch out into the world of poetry. Even while some may dread this, this novel shows how it can be done in a simplistic but effective manner. Also, it will allow for students who thrive, or for students who do not know yet that they thrive in rhyming schemes, to show what they can do and push their potential.

A great activity to do with students would be to have them complete their own poem, song, or rap even. It could be a personal story, relatable to the story of the characters found within the text, or it could be a synopsis of the text itself. The possibilities vary, as this novel covers so many different aspects that many young adults face such as, bullying, death, drugs, and friendship. I would love to have the students then present their final poem, song or rap to the class, encouraging them to be as creative as they would like, with whatever they wish. They could add background music or beats, or create a slide show to go along with the reciting of their work.