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# Imprint: Writing Lessons

## More Poetry: Niagara Falls

### **Duration:**

8 minutes (approx.)

### **Program Description:**

Where do poets find their inspiration? Nature has certainly inspired some magnificent prose, and there is one natural wonder in Ontario that has certainly spurred literary output – Niagara Falls.

This segment can be used in a unit on poetry.

### **Background Information:**

BPN: 883434

"Literary gold from the Imprint archives"

*Writing Lessons* is a magazine-style archival series with links to creative writing and Canadian literature curricula. Based on TVO's long-running books and writers series *Imprint*, *Writing Lessons* features a lively mix of interviews, literary panels, mini-documentaries, author profiles, and on-the-street features that will engage students and enhance their study of creative writing or English literature.

For more on Imprint's Writing Lessons, please visit [www.tvo.org/imprint](http://www.tvo.org/imprint)

For more on TVO teacher resources, please visit Learn with TVO at  
[www.tvo.org/learnwithtvo](http://www.tvo.org/learnwithtvo)

To offer feedback or to request a presentation for your school, board or faculty,  
please contact our Education Officer

Lisa Fernandes at [lfernandes@tventario.org](mailto:lfernandes@tventario.org)

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**Curriculum Connections:**

**ENGLISH**

**EWC 4U0 The Writer's Craft**

**Investigating the Writer's Craft**

Analyzing Models of Writing

- assess the relationships among the ideas in a passage, its purpose and audience, and the writer's choices of techniques, diction, voice, and style

Understanding the Writer's Craft

- analyze selected works and articles by writers from around the world to assess their practices and beliefs about writing

**Practising the Writer's Craft**

Producing Effective Writing

- write frequently to develop and practice writing skills, including incorporating vivid words and phrases, expressing ideas precisely, and experimenting with diction, syntax, sentence patterns, imagery, voice, and style, and maintain a portfolio containing their writing experiments throughout the course

- select appropriate techniques, diction, voice, and style and use them effectively to communicate ideas and experiences

- revise drafts to produce effective written work by refining form, technique, diction, voice, and style

Assessing Their Own and Others' Written Work

- assess the creative choices made in producing their written work

- assess the content, organization, style, and impact of drafts and final versions of informational and literary written work produced by peers, providing objective and constructive suggestions

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**Viewing Questions:**

1. Which famous writers have chosen Niagara Falls as their subject?
2. Why has this natural wonder been so inspirational across so many eras?

**Post-Viewing**

a) Visit the Niagara Poetry Project:

<http://www.niagarapoetry.ca>

b) Read several of the poems included on the web site and answer the following questions:

i) What patterns do you see in the speakers' responses to the falls?

ii) How do the writers differ in their use of the falls within the poem (i.e.: is it an incidental reference, a key image, the narrative focus of the poem, etc.).

c) Choose one poem from the web site that you particularly like. Prepare an oral reading of this poem to present to the class. After your reading, lead the class in a discussion of the key features of the poem, which make it interesting and appealing to you.

**Assessment/Evaluation:**

Choose a local or regional landmark that you find beautiful, inspirational, unusual, etc. Compose a poem in which you explore the striking features of this landmark and/or your emotional response to it. Use concrete and vivid details and emotive language to recreate the place and/or your response so that a reader who has not experienced this landmark can see what you see and/or feel what you feel. Test out your poem in your writers' workshop group to determine the success of your recreation. Edit and polish your poem for inclusion in the class anthology.

**Related Resources**

**TVO: Imprint**

[www.tvo.org/imprint](http://www.tvo.org/imprint)

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