

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY WITH POETRY

Est. Time: 60-120 minutes

Subjects: Art, Culture, Social Emotional Learning

Age Range: High School

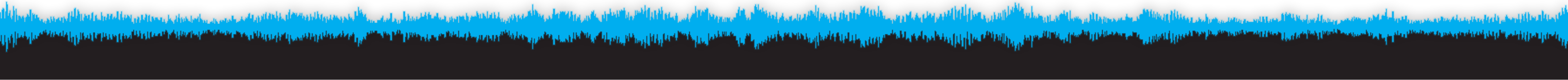
See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



What different types of communities exist, and how do the people in our communities impact us?

In this lesson you will:

- Be introduced to creatives such as poet Kevin Coval, Chance the Rapper, Jamila Woods, Nico Segal and the band The Social Experiment, who developed within the arts community in Chicago
 - How communities differ in organization, and how communities impact people as individuals
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“SUNDAY CANDY”

Watch [this video](#) of “Sunday Candy” by Nico Segal and the Social Experiment, directed by Austin Vesely. Makes notes on the actions of the performers, and whatever else grabs your attention.



Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some representations of community featured in the video? How does the video illustrate the ideas of community?
 - What are some themes in the song? How would this theme contribute to a positive community?
- 


**“I like my hugs with a scent
You smell like light, gas, water, electricity, rent
You sound like why the gospel choir got so tired
Singin' his praises daily basis so I gotta try it
You're my dreamcatcher, dream team, team captain
Matter fact, I ain't seen you in a minute let me take my butt to church...”**

“SUNDAY CANDY”

Read the above excerpt of the lyrics from “Sunday Candy.” You may also listen to the song or rewatch the video to hear this verse.



Consider or ask a friend:

- Chance is rapping about his grandmother. How does he describe his grandmother? What do you think she means to him?
 - What place or community does Chance the Rapper associate with his grandmother? How does this place/person/community make Chance feel, based on the lyrics?
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"SUNDAY CANDY"

Examine the above image which traces the connections between the artists featured in "Sunday Candy"



Consider or ask a friend:

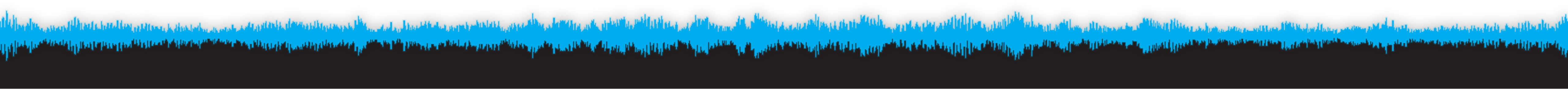
- Would you say the artists on this image are part of a community? What type of community?
 - How might collaboration be beneficial in the context of community?
- 



Create a three column chart. Title the columns as follows:

- Chance The Rapper's *Coloring Book* (2016)
- Jamila Wood's *Heavn* (2016)
- Nico Segal (and the Social Experiment) *Surf* (2015)

Using the chart, list the artist's name and their contribution to the other artist's project based on what you see in the picture.

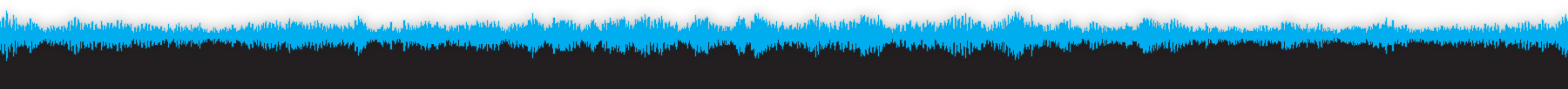


Kevin Coval is a poet and activist living in Chicago. He serves as the artistic director of the Chicago based arts organization Young Chicago Authors, which counts Chance the Rapper (who considers Coval a mentor) and Jamila Woods as alumni. Watch [this video](#) of Coval reciting “Chicago Has My Heart” (Note: Some strong language is used). Pay attention to how Coval recites his poem, his words, and the subject of the poem.





Consider or ask a friend:

- What about the performance stood out to you? Did you notice anything about Coval's gestures, rhythm, diction, or emotion that stood out when he recited the poem?
 - What are some things Coval praises about Chicago? What are some things he criticizes about his hometown? How does he establish this difference when performing the poem?
 - How does performing the poem to an audience differ from solely publishing it in a book, magazine, online, etc.?
 - In your opinion, does Coval establish community in "Chicago Has My Heart"? Does this poem speak to the idea of a community?
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SUMMARY

- Many kinds of communities exist beyond family and our neighborhood
- Communities shape who we are as individuals and can produce great things when individuals come together
- Kevin Coval, Chance the Rapper, Jamila Woods, Nico Segal and the band The Social Experiment could be considered part of the arts community in Chicago



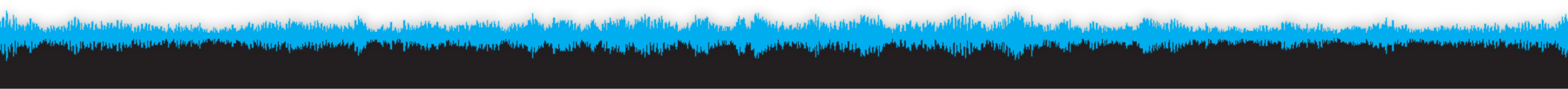
BE CREATIVE

- Create a poem that pays homage to your community, or an aspect of it (a person, place, thing, value etc.) Remember: a community can vary. It can be your family (biological or chosen), your friends, your school, an extracurricular social activity, your neighborhood, or your identity (race, sexual orientation, disability, etc.)
- You may also create an art piece, a short story, a dance, short film, or any other creative project in response to the prompts. Once done, share with those around you or virtually with others who are important to you.
- Using “Sunday Candy” as inspiration, write a song about a community of which you are a part, or a particular person within that community you feel a close connection with. Feel free to collaborate with friends, peers, mentors, etc.



CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your poem, artwork, or song with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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Please check back to teachrock.org/distancelearning frequently as we will update the material daily!