SOUND SCAVENGER

Listen to sounds in nature and place them in a circular art piece, where collected phrases echo one another and repeat to create their own chant. Then write an echo or walking story that uses the sounds to have a conversation.

Step 1 Collecting Sounds

Take a walk in your house or in the grass near where you live. Listen to sounds of birds, bugs, wind, and squirrels, words people say and things you hear as you move, include things like wind, your breath and/or your footsteps on the grass.

Step 2 Writing Sounds

Make notes of the sounds on a piece of paper. Write down sounds using groups of letters or find a way to draw, mark or make notes about the things you hear

Example: zzttt, chir chir, swee swee swee sweet (fast), swish crunch, ummm humm.

Step 3 Make a Mandala

Using a bowl, a cup, and a plate, make three circles spreading from the middle of a piece of paper. With the sounds you collected, write each one two times, one on one side of the circle and the same word/sound across the circle on the opposite side. Do this for all of your sounds. Then draw pictures and nature patterns around your words to create a piece of art or coloring page with these sounds.

Step 4 Write an Echo or Walking Story

Take the sounds and movements from your art piece to write and/or record an echo poem or walking story that starts "I heard..." Imagine you and the poem/story start in one place, take a walk and then return to the place where it began.

Using unique sounds from your circle of words at least twice, think about what the sounds are saying and add notes in your poem about how they make you feel. (Example: "the bird swee swee swees, to call hello to the Cardinal flying above, and it made me want to jump higher.") See if sounds can create a back and forth conversation or move the poem along. To end the poem, write the first line you listed one last time.