

E.T. - A LOCAL WAY OF LEARNING

**Title:** GO SOLO-THEN SHAPE AND SHARE

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**Grade Level:** 5-12

**Concepts:** 2.Ecosystem  
6.Resources

**Disciplines:** 1. Language Arts  
2. Art  
3. Music  
4.Social Studies

**Objective:**

By focusing observation on some particular element in a natural or urban setting, students will discern some commonality of purpose in a human relationship and select either language, art, or music as a medium to interpret this to others.

**Rationale:**

At some time in our lives, we all have read, seen, or heard an artist portray something in a unique, imaginative, or particularly poignant manner. And we say "That was great!", "Touching!", "Inspiring!", How did the artist do it? Most likely it is the result of observation, insight, perceptivity that goes beyond the ordinary. We can do this, too, if we learn or train ourselves to really see what is there, to transcend the obvious, to perceive more than what is visible to the naked eye or ear, and search for inspiration from what the world has to offer. Try it!

**Directions:**

- A. Quiet Time: For the first twenty minutes, go off by yourself. Take a walk in the woods, along a special road, or through your choice of neighborhood. Be alone, walk slowly, and USE ALL YOUR SENSES FULLY-look, listen, smell, taste, and touch.
- B. Reaction Time: SHAPE your ideas and sense impressions into your choice of form. Have some extra paper with you for this.
1. Imaginative or informative writing, speaking, or illustrating.
  2. Art--single or multi-media, natural object collage.
  3. Music--depicting special feelings, themes, man's social nature, sensory details. A portable tape recorder can capture outdoor sounds for a collage.

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C. Rap Time: Share your ideas with others. What objects, creatures, places, or feelings showed you something new about yourself or about people?

For example, my cricket is like people:

He uses his senses to react, respond, and interpret his world.

He forms groups for food gathering, protection, and procreation.

He provides a service to his natural forest community.

Here's another example, my neighborhood is like man:

It is always changing in its moods, faces, and people reactions.

It provides services to the community at large.

It is partly "determined" and run by laws or rules.

Circle Up: What examples or ideas can you offer your teacher and fellow students? Get into a circle, relax, and discuss.

D. Later, back in class you can revise, build up, explore, and share your original ideas in many ways.

**Further Readings:**

Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold

Walden Pond, H. D. Thoreau

Beach and Sea Animals, Color, 1970, 11 minutes. This film shows that beach and sea animals form a community of interdependent living things. It explains that certain animals are adapted for spending parts of their lives both in water and on land. (NPS VI)