Heart Mapping at Home:

Meaningful, Authentic Writing



Georgia Heard

WHAT IS A HEART MAP?

A heart map is a visual map using drawing, writing, and even crafting that expresses whatever you've stored in your heart. There is no right or wrong way to create a heart map. A heart map can include:

- feelings
- experiences
- places
- small moments
- questions
- people you love
- memories
- things

IF EVER WE NEED to connect with our hearts and the hearts of others, it's right now during this difficult and challenging time. Many of us are connecting with each other virtually and doing a fantastic job. We can invite children of all ages to express their love, fears, gratitude, concerns, and questions; to write about their feelings and experiences—about what is "stored in their hearts." A heart map is a meaningful way to begin this type of writing and to help us reconnect online.

Connecting with one another during distance learning is a necessity. Heart maps offer a way for teachers and students to stay connected with their own hearts and the hearts of others.

In my book *Heart Maps: Helping Students Create and Craft Authentic Writing*, I describe 20 different kinds of multigenre heart maps to help students write from their heart, accompanied by a downloadable heart map template.

Some questions that students can ask themselves as they heart map are:

- What have you stored in your heart?
- What people have been important to you?
- What are some experiences that you'll never forget?
- What happy or sad memories do you have?



Watch Georgia introduce each heart map: Hein.pub/HomeHeartMaps



I'm sharing three different kinds of heart maps with you here:

- Where I Find Poetry Heart Map
- Gratitude Heart Map
- What I Wonder About Heart Map

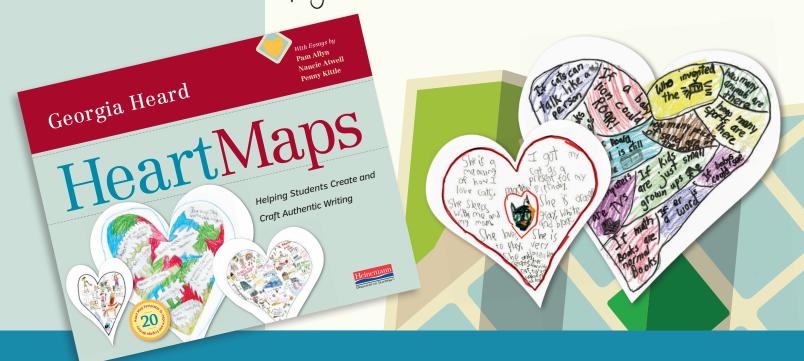
The process of heart mapping is deep and meaningful personal work and can bring up a lot of powerful feelings and memories, so be sure to invite your students to share their heart maps with someone else—either virtually or at home.

Students might want to look over their heart maps and scan for parts that resonate for them emotionally, a piece that tells a story, or an element that expresses a feeling or memory that tugs at their heart and then write from their heart maps. They can write in any genre that they choose:

poem / personal narrative / personal essay / nonfiction

Heart maps can inspire hope and strength and can remind us that we're all in this together.

Love, Georgía Heard



More heart mapping ideas: <u>Hein.pub/MyHeartMaps</u> Connect with Georgia on Twitter: <u>@GeorgiaHeard1</u>

I Find Poetry Heart Map Where

Date:

Name:

Use the Where I Find Poetry Heart Map Template to map the amazing and beautiful world around you to inspire possible poems:

- everyday observations
- beautiful and awe-inspiring people, places, and things

• small things and moments that almost

pass us by

- stories and memories that you've
- stored in your heart
- anything that makes you feel strongly.

May be photocopied for classroom use. © 2016 by Georgia Heard from *Heart Maps*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Name:

Heart Map

Write what you're grateful for on your heart map. For example: A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O

people you're grateful for—and why

what makes you happy—and why

- what brings you comfort or peace of mind—and why
- whom and what you love
- things that inspire you
- things you love and observe in the world
- places you love
- events or experiences that were unexpected or surprising.

Also add things that are easy to take for granted in everyday life:

family

- a place to sleep
- friends. • food

May be photocopied for classroom use. © 2016 by Georgia Heard from *Heart Maps*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

What I Wonder About Heart Map

Use the What I Wonder About Heart Map Template to explore and write what you don't know. As you work, ask yourself:

- What do I wonder about in my life, the world, what I'm studying in school?
 What do I want to know more about?
- Is there one wonder above all others that I can place at the center of my heart?
- Are there questions that I've had for a long time or that keep me up at night?

May be photocopied for classroom use. © 2016 by Georgia Heard from *Heart Maps*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.