Article: Talking to, Taking about, Talking with: Language Arts Students in Conversation with Poetic Texts

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English Journal; v99 n5 p67-73; May 2010

Lesson

The Article suggests that as educators we are responsible for our students learning. When it comes to poetry, secondary classrooms express these pieces as complex puzzles rather then a gateway to imagination and transformation. Students should be engaged in understanding the emotional reactions they have while dissecting the text, as well as being able to re-create those feelings in their own writing. There are many ways in which we can open up new doors for students when it comes to poetry, including specified lesson plans directed to providing skills sets necessary to enjoy and appreciate poetry.

Lesson: Tales of Edgar Allen Poe

Objectives:

\*Students will be able to read a specific work from author and poet Edgar Allen Poe

\*Students will be able to identify emotional elements throughout the piece

\*Students will be able to summarize basic elements within the text (plot, characters, setting, tone, perspective, ect.)

\* Students will be able to create an original piece of poetry, demonstrating their understanding of these emotions discussed prior

Instructions:

\*Students will be required to read piece by author Edgar Allen Poe (“The Raven” or “The Tell-Tale Heart”)

\*Students will participate in a whole-class discussion identifying basic elements of the piece, including plot, characters, setting, tone and perspective.

\*Students will then discuss what emotional elements were used to grab the readers, i.e.: humor, sadness, etc.

\*Finally students will be asked to create their own work using one or more of the emotions discussed prior.

Annotated Teaching List:

-Students feel intimidated or disconnected to poetry because it seems too complex or out of reach

-As educators it is our job to provide our students with accessibility to text, including poetry.

-The activity promotes “hands on” learning, in that the students are in control of what they would like the poem to mean. There are no wrong answers.

- After discussion and identification of emotions used within Poe’s work, the students have the opportunity to express themselves in any form they’d like, using any emotions they’ve been able to point out in Poe’s piece.