Article: That’s Fierce! Collaboration in the English Classroom

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The article is essentially a realization by an English educator within her first year of teaching. She realizes the power in which she has to create change and importance in her student’s lives. Seemingly her job is to teach about language, grammar and the overall fundamentals of reading and writing, however she soon realizes the importance of conversation and collaboration.

Lesson: “Mork’s Coat”

Objectives:

\*Students will be able to identify a problem

\*Students will be able to effectively discuss solutions with their peers in order to solve the problem at hand

Instructions:

\*The instructor will choose one child to represent a make believe character named “Mork.” That child will be directed to remain silent during the activity.

\*The rest of the class will be told that “Mork” is an alien from another planet and he is extremely susceptible to the cold weather, in fact he will die if he does not have proper attire. “Mork” also cannot speak or understand the English language. A coat and gloves are provided but on a nearby desk.

\*The students will be put into three groups and will be given 10 minutes to discuss how they will successfully get “Mork” outside without killing him.

\* After the students collaborate and discuss how they will dress “Mork” using the given supplies.

\*Each solution will be tried and a whole class discussion will follow, in order to outline what worked and why.

Annotated Teaching List:

-Provided that teachers are inevitably in charge of their students and what they take out of their class, it is important for educators to realize the missing pieces in standard classrooms.

-Teachers should teach their subjects fully, but should also be aware that discussion and collaboration are major pieces in the puzzle of success.

-Taking part in a larger project with multiple people provides the students the opportunity to work on their people skills as well as identifying themselves as a leader, introvert or extrovert in and out of the classroom.