

Classroom Lesson Plan 2

Small Literature Groups

Teacher: Joe Bernhart, Fondren Middle School, Houston, Texas

Grade Level: Seventh

Topic: Response to literature in small book groups

Materials Needed:

- Small sets of books
- Baskets to store group texts, writer's notebooks, etc.
- Writer's notebooks
- Assorted art supplies
- Student Activity Sheets:
 - Be as Smart as an Owl (Discussion Questions)
 - OWL Log
 - Foreshadowing: A Mini-Lesson
 - Book Group Presentations

Background Information:

Students will participate in book groups of four to five students each. Each group will select its own book to read from a list of 10 young adult novels. Students are expected to read books aloud, discuss them, write letters to a "Book Buddy"—a student in another class who is reading the same text—and produce a culminating project representing the mini-lesson concepts, characters, and themes of the literature. Students will use their writer's notebooks to become focused for the day's lesson and to express themselves creatively.

Lesson Objectives:

Students will:

- discuss and write about literature through peer interaction.
- develop deeper understanding of the works they read.
- enjoy and care about the literature they read.
- support one another in peer groups, as they seek their own meaning of literature.
- create original projects that demonstrate mastery of literate skills.
- engage in critical literacies within a meaningful social context.

Classroom Lesson Plan 2: Small Literature Groups, page 2

Expected Products From Lesson:

- Completed Student Activity Sheet: "OWL Log"
- Book Buddy letters
- Completed Student Activity Sheet: "Foreshadowing: A Mini-Lesson"
- Culminating student book project
- Entries in writer's notebooks

Instructional Strategies Implemented:

- Peer support
- Collaborative discussions
- Student ownership of learning
- Teacher facilitation, guidance, and feedback
- Mini-lesson

Collaborative Structure of Class:

Student desks are arranged in small groups of four to five students each. Each heterogeneous group is student-centered, in which students are asked to monitor their own progress and learning throughout each process required in the book groups.

Lesson Procedures/Activities:

A variety of activities will take place over time, depending on where students and books groups are in the process. Some of the activities will include:

- reading books aloud,
- discussing literature,
- writing about literature,
- applying literary concepts learned in mini-lessons,
- creating book projects, and
- presenting projects.

Follow-Up or Culminating Activities:

Each group will create a book project, representing their understanding of the literature. Upon completion, students will present their projects to the class.

Classroom Lesson Plan 2: Small Literature Groups, page 3

Assessment:

On a daily basis, students may be evaluated through:

- OWL logs,
- participation,
- Book Buddy letters,
- projects, and
- application of mini-lesson literature concepts.