

Eng 9-2, 9-6 LESSON PLAN

Date: Friday, March 17, 2006 **Lesson Title:** Teen Community and Facing Challenge
Curriculum Area: Language Arts **Unit of Study:** iPoet

Learning Objectives: Students will be able to build community by sharing their struggles and writing a poem in response to their most substantial inner struggle as a teenager. Students will view the movie: "Billy Elliot" (2000) as a motivator to face their struggles.

Assessment: Students will be assessed based on participation and thoughtfulness of response in sharing time. Keep a keen eye out for respect in listening and speaking. There will be no formal assessment for this unit.

Lesson:

Set: (10 mins)

- Play "Do you know your neighbors?" Onomatopoeia name game where students must say the names of either person on their left or right: "This is slinky Sarah, and Jumping Jim".
- "Do you want new neighbours?" "Yes". Everyone runs to find a new seat.
- Slow down game: "Spin the bottle" person who it points to may choose to "give" to or "receive" from the person on their right. If student chooses "give" they say something positive about the person on their right...if "receive" the person on their right says something positive about them. Say Positive thing about Personality, Abilities, Strengths, Character Trait...etc...

Development: (10 mins)

- Community building: ball of string held by teacher. Teacher names a personal struggle and passes the ball of string to someone else. The student who catches the ball of string names a personal struggle they have as a teenager and tosses the ball to another person.
- Once all students are connected to the string, explain:
 - we are all connected by the string. We all share struggles and can feel the other people holding the other end of our line. When we tug a certain way and we feel the pull. We are people who's actions effect one another.
 - focus: shared stories, shared struggles
 - open air: anyone can say anything in response
- Viewing: (30 mins)
- "Billy Elliot" explain story line and show 15-20 min movie clip.
- Students write for 8 mins in response to the movie. Write on anything that moved them, inspired them, saddened them, initiated power in you...past experiences it reminded you of...etc...
- Write a poem based on "Billy Elliot" and on the biggest struggle you face as a teenager and write to provide a hopeful but realistic outlook on your struggle.
- Break into personal writing "free verse" No template...you write what you want the way you want. Remember your poetic devices. Use your own style to express your own voice.
- Play Classical music during the writing time.
- Sharing poetry time
- Remind about Poetry Response Journal due: monday.

Bloom's Taxonomy:

- o Knowledge
- ♥ Understanding
- ♥ Application
- ♥ Analysis
- o Synthesis
- o Evaluation

Multiple Intelligences:

- ♥ Linguistic
- o Logical/Mathematical
- o Spatial
- o Musical
- ♥ Bodily/Kinesthetic
- ♥ Interpersonal
- ♥ Intrapersonal
- o Naturalistic

Materials/Resources:

- video: "Billy Elliot" (2000).
- 38 chairs in the classroom
- ball of string

Modifications:

The goal of this lesson is unity and inclusion. No differentiation is necessary.

Personal Notes/Reminders/Homework/Other Consideration:

I need 38 chairs in the classroom...or use Drama room?

Reflections:

Mike really loved this community building lesson. Saw it as "leadership training". He got the principal and some other admin. people to watch. I thought it went well and then, upon reading student responses to the activity, realized that it was an exercise that was pointless to 4 students. Most students thought it was good because it showed that we all share like struggles. The "quiet" students didn't seem to like it because they thought everyone was putting on a mask and not really sharing their real struggles.

What I learned through this activity is I have to tread lightly on building activities that are personally disclosing for students. Some are not ready or open to share their inner secrets and that's fine. I should offer choice so students don't feel so intimidated.

On the other hand, I know sharing personal struggles is tough but it is healthy in some way. Even if it's uncomfortable for us, can be good for us too.