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Symbolism worksheet high school

As the saying goes, an image is worth 1,000 words, so it's no wonder that so many writers incorporate symbolism into their writing. The visual nature of symbolism also makes it a fun concept to teach for students. Whether you teach this as a new concept for your students, diving in deeper, or just reviewing the basics, you'll find activities and resources below that will benefit all levels of students. Conditions for teaching At the beginning of my teaching career, I mainly taught ninth grade students at an urban, Section 1 high school. My students came from a variety of K-8 schools, which meant they came up with varying English Language Art experiences. To ensure that all my students started high school with a strong foundation in the literary elements, I found it best to provide direct instruction followed by great opportunities to apply terms and practice skills. During my direct teaching, I introduced students to the following terms: personal symbols, public symbols, symbolism and allegory. Under the category of public symbols, I show students that symbols can have several meanings and they can represent people, events, concrete things and abstract ideas. Many of my students were unaccustomed to taking notes so I provided them with a guided note with the template. This three column sheet provided a structured space for the term, definition, and example. Activities for Reinforcement Before Applying these newly learned terms to a short story or novel, I am happy to give my students the opportunity to practice using shorter texts or media. For symbolism, using short videos provides great visual reinforcement. In this playlist I have collected a variety of videos exposing the origin of different symbols, how some symbols have changed their meaning over time, symbols hidden in well-known logos, etc. I may only use one of two of these videos every time I teach symbolism, but they definitely help to pique students' interest and open their eyes to how pre-ruling symbols are used. Another way I reinforce the symbolism is by using a menu of activities based on Bloom's Taxonomy. Students choose activities from four different sections of the menu: knowledge and understanding, application and analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students examine examples of public symbols and can use their skills to complete tasks such as designing a flag with a new symbol for their school. If I'm in the middle of a novel or short story, an activity that's fun to use with any text is to create word art. It is a great activity for any rating level and can be used to reinforce character ideas and symbolism. This activity can be done during or after reading with any short story or novel. Students brainstorm words to describe and associate with a character selection, select an object to represent the character or his/her characteristics, and then create that object using the words they You can read more about the activity and see examples here. Incorporate movement movement Practical activities A fun introductory lesson to symbolism is to create a personal weapon. I provide the students with a crest template as well as the meanings of common symbols and colors. I ask students to choose the colors and symbols that represent them and then show students a sample crest to help them brainstorm additional ideas. I usually make students make a rough sketch or at least brainstorm a list of the symbols and colors they will use before handing out the crest template for their end product. After constructing their crowns, students write a short paragraph explaining their choice of symbols and colors. If time permits, I'll have students present their crests to their peers. This activity could also be used as an early year activity for students to express who they are and decorate their new classroom. Students can also create crests to represent characters or individuals in a novel, short story or nonfiction text. To show students how powerful symbols can be, I incorporate a lesson on some of the propaganda posters that Nazi Germany used during World War II and the Holocaust. I select ten posters to print and hang around my classroom so that students can walk around and examine them. For starters, students conclude the meaning of each poster by matching each poster with its correct English translation using visual cues in the posters. After the students have correctly matched the posters with their translations, they begin to identify patterns in the depictions of the German people versus the Jews. Finally, students analyze the symbols and color symbolism used in the posters. At the end of the lesson, students can see how the Nazi Party will spread and preserve the basic ideas of Nazism and dehumanize inferior groups. Lyrics to Read My favorite short story, The Scarlet Ibis by James Hurst, are a perfect choice for teaching symbolism as the author's use of symbolism is clear, but multilayered. The story is also full of beautiful images that contrast the heartbreaking end to the relationship between the two brothers. I remember reading it as a ninth grade student and was happy to find it in the literature anthology I used as a ninth grade teacher. It is a good text to examine the foreshadowing and can also be used to introduce allegory by discussing the author's approach to war. If you don't want to risk crying in front of (or with) your students, through the tunnel of Doris Lessing, another good choice is. The main character fights against himself, his mother, other boys, and forces of nature. Like most young people, the protagonist wrestles with being seen as a child when he wants to be treated as a young adult. This coming of age story is full of imagery and symbolism, and also good for teaching the different types of conflicts. Creative application When students seem comfortable with the conditions or if need a challenge, I introduce students to a digital break out, out, by a Well-read Student for further practice. A digital break out is an online scavenger hunting-like game where players use teamwork and critical thinking to solve a series of challenging puzzles to open a range of locks. In this break out, students hope that their current English teachers will recommend them for the advanced course next year, but she will only recommend students she considers to be well read and have a list of five book titles students must read before she will recommend them. Here's the catch: she will not directly tell students what the five book titles are. Instead, since they have just finished up a device on symbolism, they must use their knowledge of symbols and interact with a variety of text and media to figure out the titles of the books on the list. In addition to needing content knowledge to successfully complete the game, break outs require students to think critically, communicate, collaborate, and use creativity. I also love breaking outs because they provide students with many opportunities to fail and try again. Any unsuccessful attempt to open a lock forces them to reconsider their information and thinking. Assessment While many of the activities described above allow students to demonstrate their understanding of skills and terms, as a summarized assessment I use a set of text-based assessments, each with a read-through and 10 multiple choice questions or 7 multiple choice questions and a short written answer, to assess my students' knowledge of symbolism. The diversity of passages and text complexity levels allows me to test students as needed and make accommodation for struggling readers. The variety was also helpful during the years that I had classes whose eyes tended to wander during quizzes or tests. You can find all my resources for teaching symbolism here. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask that you confirm your identity as a human being. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Cooperation.

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