

Lesson – ‘I Wonder ...’ about images from refugees’ lives

Synopsis: Lesson is focused on forming questions. The teacher models ‘I Wonder’ questions then students create their own lists of questions inspired by a variety of photographs from refugee camps around the globe. The focus is on asking questions *not* on answering questions.

Grade: Appropriate for any grade with modifications. Modify expectations and number of pictures.

Rationale: *This lesson integrates a child refugee theme from Social Studies with poetry from Language Arts. Students use critical thinking skills and background knowledge to formulate questions and interpret pictures.*

Assessment Criteria: Student has made insightful and imaginative personal responses to the featured photographs.
Student demonstrates developing ability to imagine the circumstance of and take the perspective of children in difficult situations such as living as refugees around the world

Resources, Material and Preparation:

- Power point presentation of "I Wonder photos"
- Tracey Chapman (or other powerful world) music
- Student Poetry Portfolios
- pencil and paper

Lesson Plan

Connecting:

- Students enter the classroom. Powerpoint is cued.
- Tracy Chapman music or other choice powerful music is playing.
- Today we are going to think and talk about the things we wonder about. Much is happening in the world and there is much for us to think about and question. But sometimes we forget to stop and really think about what we wonder about.
- These are some things that I wonder about in the world. Write (model) a list of things to wonder about.

Example: I wonder what my grades will be in my classes in University.
I wonder whether I will be able to get a teaching job in Nanaimo when I graduate next December.
I wonder if the kids in Class 7-4 will remember me next year or the year after.
I wonder if I will make new friends when I go to study French in Nova Scotia in June.
I wonder why some people are mean to other people because they dress differently?
I wonder what the world would be like if all the wars ended?
I wonder why the United States doesn't spend more money on helping starving people rather than on wars.

I wonder why some children run away from home to live on the streets?
I wonder why some people become addicted to alcohol and some don't?
I wonder what happens to people after they die.
I Wonder..... Where does outer space end?

Processing:

- A/B Partners- Come up with some ideas about what you wonder about and we will add them to the list.
- Show power-point pictures. What do you wonder about these pictures?
Start each line:
"I Wonder....."
- Discuss your sentences with your partner and record them in your poetry portfolio.
- After each picture share some of the 'I wonder' statements from the partners.

Personalizing:

- Write in your portfolio.....

Which of the photos did you wonder the most about? Why? Which impacted you the most?

- A few student volunteers share their reflections.

Accommodations

All students in class can participate. Students with written output challenges can verbally share their 'I wonder' reflections with teacher/partner.

Resource:

Tovani, Cris. I Read it but I Don't Get It – Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers. 2000. Stenhouse Publishers.