

Simple Is Not Simplistic: Picture Books in the WOTP Classroom

Writing Skills: 6+1 Trait Writing Model (<http://educationnorthwest.org/traits/trait-definitions>)

- Ideas — the main message and supporting ideas
- Organization — the internal structure of the piece
- Voice — the personal tone and flavor of the author's message
- Word Choice — the vocabulary a writer chooses to convey meaning
- Sentence Fluency — the rhythm and flow of the language
- Conventions — the mechanical correctness
- Presentation — how the writing actually looks on the page

Reading Strategies: Beyond decoding - encouraging students to think about what they are reading

- Making Connections (text-to-self, text-to-world, text-to-text)
- Questioning (“thick and “thin” questions)
- Visualizing (“mental movies”)
- Activating Prior Knowledge (what do I already know about...?)
- Predicting & Inferring (P = can be confirmed by further reading; I = not clearly confirmed)
- Summarizing (determining importance, main idea, supporting details)
- Evaluating
- Synthesizing (theme)

Examples of Classroom Application

1. Secret Knowledge (ideas, organization, hidden curriculum)
2. If You're Not From... (word choice, sentence fluency)
3. Idioms (figurative language)
4. Wonder (making connections)
5. ABCs (vocabulary, audience, organization)
6. Micronation (GHC, ASP)
7. Grammar
8. Changing perspectives
9. Writing Prompts

For further reading on the topic:

- Bringing Children's Books to Adult Literacy Classrooms:
<http://literacy.kent.edu/Oasis/Pubs/0200-12.htm>
- The Use of Picture Books in the High School Classroom:
<http://scholarship.rollins.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=mls>
- Picture Books Are For Little Kids, Aren't They? Using Picture Books with Adolescent Readers to Enhance Literacy Instruction:
http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3085&context=reading_horizons
- 10 Picture Books for Teaching Teens: <http://inthekeyofbooks.blogspot.ca/2013/08/10-picture-books-for-teaching-teens.html>

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