

Gratitude Lesson Reflection: July 8, 2014

It is most nerve-wrecking to teach in front of peers, no matter how nice they are! Inside you know that they accomplished individuals in their own right, and that they are looking for how they might apply your lesson to their curriculum needs. My senses told me that the lesson was received well. For example, I heard pens writing, keyboards tapping, and whispers of ideas shared. I saw students writing madly in their notebooks, thinking about things that they are grateful for, and why.

I loved using Prezi for the first time, and loved the way it moves so smoothly from slide to slide, or idea to idea. I had never used it before, and felt very confident with the program, and quickly, too! Other technology that I used for the teaching demonstration included infuselearning.com. I think that I will use it with my students, as well as consider returning to this program at the end to do a true/false quiz on the meaning of "simile." Also, I used the collaborative google document to capture brainstorming ideas. I believe my students will enjoy doing this, too. Perhaps I would stop after the collection, and allow students time to copy ideas to their notebooks. The last piece of technology that I used was music. I think that the YouTube "relaxing music" is a nice change for students, especially when it is used during poetry writing. Overall, I was happy with my "trial" use of the various technology!

I felt that the pace was appropriate. I debated as to whether I would read the book about the crayons at the very beginning or in the middle. I am still debating this in my head as I think it could have been a way to trigger images prior to the movie. Perhaps it would have worked in both places in the lesson.

It might be interesting to consider the sounds of colors, and then read the Kandinsky book. I am thinking that I would like to do that during an instructional piece on metaphor where the color actually "becomes" the sound.

I also think that beyond the display wall during conferences, I think that I would like to spend time posting some of these poems on the classroom blog, perhaps rotating it. Also, it would be interesting to combine a group of students, and pull all of the "red" stanzas to create a new poem only about red. It might be fun to illustrate this "color" booklet and then take it to an elementary school to teach them about 1) gratitude and 2) colors of things they love.

Overall, I am content with the lesson, and hope that the teachers found what I like to say is a "golden nugget" ...just one thing that they can use in their lessons to further engage their students.