Lesson 5: Introduction to Ernest Hemingway

Introduction

Instructional Outcomes

Teacher will introduce Ernest Hemingway, lead a reading and analysis of Hills Like White Elephants, and begin exploring the role setting plays in the piece.

Maine Learning Results

A. PROCESS OF READING
Students will use the skills and strategies of the reading process to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate what they have read. Readers apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on prior experience, interactions with others, knowledge of word meaning and knowledge of other texts, word identification strategies, and understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS
Students will apply reading, listening, and viewing strategies to informational texts across all areas of curriculum. When reading, listening, and viewing critically, students will ask pertinent questions, recognize assumptions and implications, and evaluate information and ideas. In a world that surrounds them with information, they have to be able to connect with this information and make sense of it.

Content learning outcome: Students will understand who Ernest Hemingway is; students will understand the basic plot and theme of Hills Like White Elephants; utilizing reciprocal teaching strategies, students will explore the powerful role of the title with the piece; students will read a biographical analysis of the author as an informational text; students will explore the role of setting in the piece.

Literacy Support Strategies and Instruction

Before reading/learning:
Introduction to Ernest Hemingway Keynote
Video tour of the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum

- Materials:
  - Keynote:
    - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAherNhn-ys
**During reading/learning:**
Dramatic reading of Hills Like White Elephants
Reciprocal Teaching strategies
- Materials:
  - Text
  - Title definition handout

**After reading/learning:**
Introduction to the Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway text
Setting activity
- Materials:
  - Text
  - Creative materials

**Lesson Plan Outline**

1. **Reading Quiz on Hills Like White Elephants**
   - Answer Four Questions
   - Briefly discuss answers

2. **Introduction to Hemingway**
   - Keynote presentation
   - Ask students to take notes
   - Watch the video Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum:
     [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAherNhn-ys](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAherNhn-ys)

4. **Reread the Hills Like White Elephants**
   - Dramatic reading with three characters and a narrator
   - Four copies for those students
   - Regular copies for the rest of class
   - Props: Table and two chairs, two glasses, two bottles, suitcase.
   - Draw hills on the board behind the students.
   - Questions to ask as students read:
     - What does he call the characters? Why is this relevant?
     - What social class do these people belong to?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>What could the rubbing of the beaded curtain symbolize?</td>
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<tr>
<td>What do they seem to be fighting about?</td>
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**5. White Elephant Definition**

Post on the overhead with pictures

Ask students to consider what the title reveals about the story

This is usually when students start to understand the plot of the story.

Allow students to return to the man’s comments about the simple procedure.

Do you think Hemingway thinks it is a simple or complex issue between a couple?

**6. Setting activity**

Ask students individually or in pairs to try and draw an accurate representation of the setting.

Use specific details from the story to draw an accurate representation of the setting. Be precise and exact.

**Homework**

Complete the Setting Activity and read Introduction to the Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway.

**Suggested Subsequent Lessons**