Using real literature in middle school ESL

MATSOL 2019

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For many English language learners, the ESL class needs to meet objectives of language and literature which are used in all ELA classes.  How can we use real literature--books, graphic novels, short stories--with our ELLs in middle school, particularly at beginning language levels?

Research that inspires us:

Greg Thompson et al., "A Few Simple Ideas For New Language Learners," 1999

http://www.wolofresources.org/language/4cuteprinciples.htm#1.1.1

First Golden Rule: Join with people around experience using language.

Stephen Krashen, *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research.* Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1993.

"Reading is good for you. The research supports a stronger conclusion, however. Reading is the only way, the only way we become good readers, develop a good writing style, an adequate vocabulary, advanced grammar, and the only way we become good spellers." (p. 23)

Richard Day and Julian Bamford, *Extensive Reading in the Second Language Classroom,* Cambridge University Press, 1998

"Second language students in academic preparation programs must certainly master special skills for reading challenging academic texts. But unless they are also reading with fluency and confidence in the second language, they are unlikely to read broadly and deeply enough to achieve the mass of background knowledge on which speculative thinking depends." (p. 45)

Factors to consider:

--student interest

--vocabulary/syntax

--social factors

--curriculum for other courses

Activities we have found successful:

--audiobooks

--creative responses

--vocabulary

--small-group discussion

--quick write responses

--projects

--Kahoot!

Texts that we have used:

--*The Birchbark House,* Louise Erdrich

--*The Year of the Dog*, Grace Lin

--Aesop Fables

--*Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*, Joseph Lemasolai

Lekuton and Herman Viola

--Scholastic series on "Who Was…..?"

--excerpts from Anne Frank's diary

--classroom magazines

--*Pirates Magnified,* David Long

--Kingfisher Young Knowledge: series of non-fiction science texts

--folk tales