

Understanding Points of View (Elementary)

Overview:

Students will begin to understand different perspectives in narrative texts, which will help them develop greater media literacy. By introducing simple concepts to young children, their ability to understand more complex perspectives will develop. This lesson plan is designed with very young children in mind, but it can be adapted for older audiences by modifying the vocabulary and source material.

Objectives:

- Students will recognize the storyteller in narrative texts.
- Students will develop awareness of points of view from a spatial perspective in picture books.
- Students will understand vocabulary that is appropriate for understanding the narrative and pictures in story books.

Materials:

- Picture books that the students are familiar with
- Laminated vocabulary cards with images for new vocabulary within the texts
- Copies of pictures in the story that represent the different spatial settings
- Laminated vocabulary cards corresponding to the different spatial settings
- Paper, pens, crayons, pencils, and other art supplies as required to draw scenes from the picture books that will illustrate different spatial perspectives

Procedure:

1. Tell the students to listen carefully as you read them a story from one of the books.
2. When you finish, write the word STORYTELLER on the board. Ask the students if they know what it means. Explain if necessary and ask who the storyteller was.
3. Responses may vary from student to student.
4. Read the story again, this time highlighting new or unfamiliar vocabulary. Point out the different scenes in the book and ask the students which character is looking and from where.
5. Make sure that the students understand the different points of view in the story.
6. Ask the students to choose one scene from the story and draw or recreate that scene.
7. Ask them to tell you which scene they're drawing and why they chose it.

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This lesson is part of a regular feature in Josephson Institute's monthly e-newsletter, the Character Educator. To subscribe, visit the CHARACTER COUNTS!

website: <http://www.charactercounts.org/chron/>

McREL standards

Language Art

Standard 6. Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts.

Level I Benchmark 3. Knows setting, main characters, main events, sequence, and problems in stories.

<http://www.mcrel.org/Standards-benchmarks/>