

Using Partner Reading to Enhance Understanding of Novels for ELLs

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ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF NOVELS FOR ELLS

Sheltered English Immersion Strategies help English Language Learners comprehend themes and motifs contained in novels.

Sheltered English Immersion strategies feature:

- Partner Reading
- Think Alouds
- Parsed Text

Using a parsed section of text combined with a Partner Reading or Think Aloud strategy helps English Language Learners with various English proficiency levels to better explain themes and motifs within novels.

DESCRIPTION

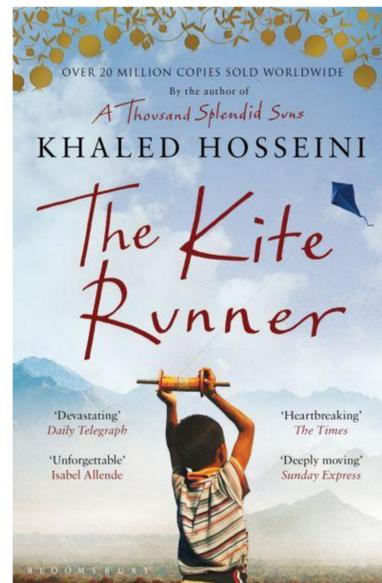
In an English 4 classroom, students were assigned *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini.

The student population was comprised of English Language Learners whose English proficiency levels ranged from levels 2 to 3.5

We utilized SEI strategies such as Partner Reading, Sentence Frames, and Parsed Text to differentiate assignments and modify the novel.

Parsed Text

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini was parsed to pull essential sections of the book that contain major themes and plot points.



Partner Reading

Partner Reading is a technique in which

- Three students are grouped and given a parsed text to read.
- It is most effective to combine students of varied levels of ability, for support.

Example:

Team One - Maria (WIDA level 2.4)
Geuris (WIDA level 2.9)
Kimberly (WIDA level 3.5)

Implementation of Partner Reading and Assessment

1. Maria reads the first line of the text
2. Geuris reads the second line of the text
3. Kimberly summarizes for the group what Maria and Geuris read.

This process is repeated until the students have read and summarized the entire parsed text.

Written Assessment

Students are given a summary of the text read in their Partner Reading activity. The summary is constructed of sentence frames. Essential words and phrases are replaced with blank spaces. Students fill in the blanks to demonstrate their understanding of the text.

Oral Assessment

Throughout the implementation of these methods we observed a sound understanding of themes and motifs such as arranged marriage, the death of a parent, keeping secrets, and redemption. Through oral discourse, students connected background knowledge to their new understanding of these topics.

APPLICATION

These combined strategies can be used in middle and high school classrooms.

The strategies support the differentiation of assignments in either an inclusive classroom, or push-in ESL classroom. In either environment these strategies enable teachers to encourage students' deeper understanding of themes and motifs in novels.

The versatility of these methods makes any content accessible to English Language Learners! From lab reports to presidential speeches, any text can be accessed!

Parsed Text – A text is parsed to address essential elements of a novel that include major themes and plot points.

Example: One page within a chapter of *The Kite Runner* was distributed to students as a source text. Parsing the text allows students to go deeper, not wider within a text. Text was parsed by selecting small portions of the novel that contained pertinent information about themes and motifs.

Partner Reading – Students digest a parsed section of a novel in a group, by reading and summarizing.

Sentence Frames – Students demonstrate their understanding of theme and plot by completing a written assignment, following Partner Reading.

Example:

“Amir and Hassan’s relationship reveals _____ which is a theme within the book.”

“I feel that Amir _____ a good friend to Hassan, because he _____”

Resource

SEI Teacher Endorsement Course
2014-2015