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Who can guess my book?

Goal

With this teaching idea, students learn about new books and texts and can be motivated to read. When they select and read a page aloud they must engage intensively with “their” book or text while, at the same time, they practice reading out loud, as well as intensive listening.

1st – 9th grade

60 minutes



Materials:

A selection of different books or other texts (picture books, dictionaries, magazines, etc.). The texts can be provided by the instructor or by the students.

Procedure:

- Every student selects a book or a text. The other students must not see what book it is. Beginners may select a picture book. The instructor makes a list where the students “secretly” record their book title.
- The students place their book in a jacket to cover the title page.
- The students look for a passage in their book that is suitable for reading aloud to the class (the passage must be exciting or interesting; at the same time, it must not reveal just everything). The selection of an appropriate passage (ca. 1/3 – 1 page) requires an intensive examination of the text.
- Reading out loud must be practiced! The students receive ample time to practice reading aloud (preferably outside of the classroom). This can also be assigned as a homework task. The beginners who chose a picture book will be tasked to describe a chosen picture as vividly as possible.
- The students then read their selected text passages to the class (or describe the chosen picture, respectively). The listeners try to guess to which book the text passage belongs, or the genre of the book (thriller, nonfiction, fairy tale, etc.). The titles for reading aloud and guess-the-book exercises can also be distributed over 2–3 lessons.

Remarks:

This exercise can also be organized as a little contest. The person who first guesses the correct title wins.

Variants:

The project can be varied in many ways. Example:

- Books written in the school language could be considered as well; however, the presentation must occur in the first language.
- At the end of the year, the instructor reads to the class text passages from books that were discussed during the year. From which text where they taken?
- All title pages will be copied on a piece of paper and numbered. The students must match the passages with the title pages.
- All book titles were listed on a sheet and given to the listeners. They must now match the read out passages with the titles.
- The choice is limited to a certain type of text (fiction titles, factual texts, poems, fairy tales...).
- The students read the text passages at parents’ evenings. The parents receive a list of the books and must guess.

- The students bring their favorite books to class and read from them to the class.
- Parents, relatives, other teachers are invited to read a passage from their favorite books.

13 Riddle string

Goal

In order to collect riddles for a book or a text, the students must read the material very closely, pay attention to details and focus on key passages of the text. Solving riddles motivates in particular the younger children to read.

2nd–9th grade

60 minutes



Materials:

Texts (not very long stories, selected articles from magazines or the internet, books, picture books for the little ones); paper strips, scissors, string.

Procedure:

- Individual work: The students select a text that interests them from a previously prepared stack of books. They read the text intently and take notes of questions which can only be answered upon fully absorbing the text content. Examples: What does the protagonist wear the first day of school after vacation? What is the name of the main character's father? In which compass direction does the river XY flow?
- The questions are written on paper strips in the sequence in which they are answered in the text. Enough space must be left for the answers after each question (either on the paper strip itself or by adding blank, colorful strips).
- The paper strips then are attached to a string. Two students each exchange their texts with the riddles on a string.



- The students read the exchanged book or the text from the others (possible as a homework assignment) and try to answer the questions on the riddle string. After reading the texts, the answers are compared.
- Those who want to solve more riddles obtain other texts and corresponding riddle strings from other students.