

Class Notes- June 13, 2006

Opening Warm-up

- I. The Class started with a (10 minute) Free writing exercise. The intention of this exercise is to release the student from their typical writing experiences. The students are allowed to express themselves in a more relaxed environment. Teacher should give Students the ability to share.
 - A. **Everyone Can Write** by Peter Elbow
 - B. **Map of Writing** by PETER ELBOW
 - C. **Writing without Teachers** by Peter Elbow
 - D. **What Have You Lost** by Naomi Shihab Nye
 - E. **Where on Earth** by Patricia Patrick

II Class Presentation- Poetry Slam by Michelle Castillo-West

Michelle warmed up the class and gave background on the poetry slam movement by prefacing her presentation showing the website- WWW.YouthSpeak.com and explaining her Philosophy of Teaching by connecting her ideas to **The Tao of Writing** by Ralph Wahlstrom.

Warm-up: Scan for words using the Poisonwood Bible.

Students are to look for words or ideas which connect to their experiences. Students are given a 5 minute time frame to scan for words. Students then construct a FOUND POEM. Students start a Free Write with the found words by mixing their own words with their scanned document.

Michelle explained how Billy Collins believed in having one Poem a Day to expose students to the writing and the genre. His poem- WWW.loc.gov/poetry/180/001.html
POETRY 180.

Another book to explain the needed use of poetry in the classroom is Louise Rosenblatt's The Reader, The Text, The Poem. This Transactional theory is supported by the Deconstructions view of words by Jacques Derrida.

A historical view of Poetry performance includes the Following:

Homer- Iliad and Odyssey

Shakespeare

Nursery Rhymes

Beat Movement- Ginsberg, Kerouac, Corso, Bukowski

Slam Poetry

“Song of the SLAIN”- performed by Urbana and Taylor Mali “What Teachers Make” were examples of the Poem as performance.

Student performance: Students are separated by groups and perform poems which are broken into parts to perform. Students must dissect parts and ready them to perform. The class took stanzas of the poems and made kinesthetic performance demonstrations. Students worked as groups carefully dissecting the poems so that they were palatable to their audience.

Poetry books to use include:

Kenneth Koch – Wishes, Lies and Dreams/ Rose, Where did you get Red?

Karen Hesse – Witness

Burton Raffel – How to Read a Poem

Helen Frost- Keesha's House

Hip Hop Poetry and the Classics by Alan Sitomer

The Spoken Word Revolution by Mark Eleveld and Billy Collins

Yo, Aesop!: Get a Load of These Fables by Paul Rosenthal

Hey you Cmere: A Poetry Slam by Elizabeth Swados

III Class Presentation –

Bravery, Beds and Beer: The Life of Mrs. W. A. Menger by Tim Draves

The Life and Times of Mrs Menger : The presentation was an introduction to The Journal of The Life and Culture of San Antonio by The University of The Incarnate Word.