

Unit I: Literacy Narrative

Lesson Title: Detail and Description in Literacy Narratives

Population: ENGL 120 Students/Pignotti

Prior Knowledge:

Up to this point they are learning what literacy means and have begun the invention process leading in to developing their own literacy narrative.

Overview:

After discussing Alexie's narrative, students will begin to notice the ways in which a writer shows his/her reader their experiences through detail and description (metaphor, dynamic verbs, specific nouns, etc.).

Objectives/Outcomes:

SWBAT distinguish different techniques writers use to describe their experiences.

SWBAT assess how uses of detail and description can change writing.

SWBAT apply these techniques to their own writing.

Preparation:

Students will have read Alexie's "Super Man and Me" and bring in their literacy memory list. Teacher must prep Mad Libs worksheet

Anticipatory Set:

Free Write "In Alexie's literacy narrative he discusses challenges he encountered when learning to read. Write about a challenging moment you have had with reading and/or writing. How did you overcome it? How did it impact your attitude toward reading and or writing?"

Input/Modeling:

1. Reading Discussion

After discussing Alexie's narrative as a class, ask the question: "What about Alexie's writing makes this narrative so powerful?" Have the students pick out a sentence or two that they really liked and discuss in pairs what they liked about the sentence and as a class, share some of these sentences. This will lead in to the to a mini-lecture about detail and description (dynamic verbs, metaphor, specific nouns, etc.).

2. Detail and Description Practice

Write on the board: "The person walked out of the place with food on his face."

As a class, using what we discussed about detail and description, how can we make this sentence more interesting for our reader?

(e.g. "The man frolicked out of the bar like a pretty ballerina with nachos in his beard.")

3. Mad Libs

In groups, have student fill out a Mad Libs worksheet, applying detail and description (ask them to keep it clean!). Then have them share as a group and discuss the different ways detail and description were used.

Check for Understanding:

Free Write "From your literacy memory list, pick one event/moment to write about. Use detail and description to show (not tell) your reader this memory."