

Katie Wilson

December 2, 2020

"The Ramped- Up Read Aloud"

By far this is my favourite workshop thus far! I love to read aloud, and I love learning new strategies about honouring literature in the classroom. A couple things I learned from this workshop were the usage of learning targets, and the "6 secrets to successful read alouds".

These learning targets are commonly called learning goals, but I like targets better. Being a highly driven person the notion of a goal seems whimsical to me and a potential. Whereas a target is direct and you have to reach it, there is no room for maybes or ifs. Mistakes a good, and bound to happen. Even with the usage of target over goal, a mistake does not mean you have failed, it means you have been humbled by your attempt and urges you to try again until you reach your target. When teaching an ELL student English is called the target language, not the goal language. It is not a goal that you will reach for, it is a target you will aim your cognitive bow at and fire until you reach it.

The "6 secrets to successful read alouds" were common sense, except for a couple. At least my common sense. "Frequent brain breaks" was one of them. It is so simple! I can't focus on something for more than an hour on a good day, so how can I expect a child to focus on a book solely? When I was working at a daycare I noticed that the children would lose interest halfway into the most interesting of stories. That is because I was just reading, I was not getting them to stretch or point things out in the book. I know now, thanks to this workshop, that children's brains are not stimulated enough by simply listening to a story, they need to be actively engaged and drawn back in periodically throughout a story or lesson. This makes for an entirely different literature experience. One that will have longer lasting effects. The next secret I did not think of was "Meaningful technology connections". Having grown up as a "digital immigrant" (Gilkey, 2008), incorporating technology into my lessons, will be a new challenge. One that I will happily face with the appropriate amount of uneasiness!

Bibliography

Gilkey, C. (2008, February 11). *The Three Different Types of Digital Residents*. Productive Flourishing.

<https://www.productiveflourishing.com/the-three-different-types-of-digital-residents/>