Lesson Plan Pourquoi Tales
6th Grade English Language Arts

Teacher: Cunningham

Date: 6-21-13

Subject / grade level: English/Language Arts  Grade 6  Pourquoi Tales using Alice Worlds

Materials: Lesson Plan, Hand-out, Computers, Alice World 2.3 download and created Alice World, projector, pencil, paper

NC Common Core Standards

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.1** Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2** Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.3** Describe how a particular story’s or drama’s plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.5** Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.6** Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

Lesson objective(s): Students learn about Pourquoi Tales. They will understand that:

Pourquoi [por-kwa] means "why" in French. Pourquoi tales are old legends told to explain why certain events happened. These tales often start in the past, e.g. A long, long time ago . . . and end when the explanation is complete—explaining “why” something is the way it is in nature. Pourquoi tales are most often concerned with animals and the natural world. Many are Native American myths. They are true until the last sentence that states the reason something is the way it is.


Differentiation strategies to meet diverse learner needs: Teacher will move around the room, helping individual students as needed when they are writing and creating Alice Worlds.

ENGAGEMENT- Read this story to students

HOW THE LEOPARD GOT ITS SPOTS
A long, long time ago, Leopard was the brown-yellow color of the desert. He was so plain he was almost invisible against the brown-yellow desert. When he headed out to hunt, the animals could not see him, so they did not run away. To escape Leopard's appetite, the animals headed into the great shadowy forest. When Leopard tried to follow them, he stood out like a bright-yellow sunflower against the forest. He could not hunt at all. Leopard's friends Camel and Zebra understood his problem. They wanted to help their friend. So Camel sucked up a mouthful of pine tar and spit it on Leopard. Soon black spots were all over Leopard's fur. Now Leopard could blend into the forest. He became a great and powerful hunter!

Adapted from http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/teaching-pourquoi-tales

EXPLORATION

Exploring the Tale
Talk with the children about the story of Leopard and his spots. Ask them to consider the story from Leopard's point of view and from Camel's and the other animals. Is it good that Leopard was able to get his spots and hunt again? As part of their exploration of the story, take a vote to decide whether Leopard should have gotten his spots.


Now show students the Alice World-How the Leopard Got Its Spots

Have students discuss the actions.

EXPLANATION

Go over the meaning of Pourquoi Tales. Have students Think-Pair-Share ideas for Pourquoi tales. Hand out sheet to write your own Pourquoi Tale. Students will fill in the sheet, and then write their own Pourquoi tale.

ELABORATION

Students will create an Alice World to explain their Pourquoi tale.

EVALUATION

Students will proofread their partner's story and help with corrections. Corrected stories will be rewritten and turned in. Students will present their Alice World-Pourquoi Tale to the class.
WRITE YOUR OWN POURQUOI STORY!

A WORKSHEET FOR WRITERS

“Pourquoi” is the French word for “why.” Pourquoi stories are tales that explain WHY or HOW something is in the world. Many different cultures all over the world have pourquoi stories. YOU can write your own pourquoi story. To write your story, think about the following things:

1. What is it that you are explaining? (Titles of pourquoi stories often start with “how” or “why.”)

2. Who is your main character? (Is it a male or female? Animal or human?)

3. What other characters are there?

4. Where do they live?

5. When do they live? (Most pourquoi stories take place a long time ago.)

6. What is the problem in your story that leads to the thing you are explaining?

7. How do we see this thing today?

Any other notes:

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