Art Integration

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Art Form

I would enhance my lesson by using Reader's Theater. I chose Reader's Theater because it is a fun and motivating way for students to develop oral reading fluency, expression, and comprehension. Reader's Theater is a popular instructional strategy and research has supported its effectiveness as a reading intervention. Reader's Theater engages students while providing opportunities for repeated guided oral reading. It is a form of repeated readings in which scripts are adapted from prose or poetry so they are suitable for oral reading (Hertzberg, 2000, p. 22).

Corcoran and Davis (2005) conducted a study examining the effects of Reader's Theater on second and third grade special education students' fluency. The results showed that both reading attitudes and confidence levels of these struggling readers improved due to the repeated practice of the Reader's Theater scripts in their groups (Corcoran & Davis, 2005). Because research has shown that reading fluency is directly correlated to reading comprehension, repeated readings, such as Reader's Theater, have been shown to increase comprehension as well as fluency. "The number of words read correctly per minute increased overall as a class by an increase of 17 additional words read correctly in spring versus winter" (Corcoran & Davis, 2005, p. 110). Reader's Theater promotes fluency for struggling readers, builds confidence, motivates students to read more extensively, enhances listening and speaking skills, and builds camaraderie in the classroom (Rasinski, 2003).

Other art form can also be utilized in Reader's Theater as well. Teachers can incorporate musical elements by including songs and movement. Artistic expression and creativity can be enhanced by allowing students to design and create props and backdrops. Overall, Reader's Theater is a wonderful reading instructional strategy, a way to reinforce content-area subjects, and a meaningful way to integrate the arts.

Lesson Enhancement

Reader's Theater will enhance my science lessons on the Solar System. My third-grade students study the solar system including topics such as the sun, moon, and planets. The Reader's Theater entitled "The Solar System Play" contains excellent scientific information about the sun, moons, planets, and other space objects. In this Reader's Theater, the sun thinks he/she is the most important part of the solar system and brags about this. With the help of each planet and object from the solar system, the sun realized that each planet, moon, asteroid, and comet play an important role. Student will learn scientific information, make connections, and review the scientific standards.

Interdisciplinary context

This Reader's Theater not only will improve reading skills such as fluency, expression, and comprehension, but will support the science curriculum. Art forms, including Reader's Theater, can be used to reinforce content-area subjects in an interactive and meaningful way. This interdisciplinary lesson will keep student engaged and motived, while learning the core science curriculum. Multiple content areas can be enhanced using Reader's Theater. Various forms of art, including Reader's Theater, allow students to express themselves in a creative and enjoyable way and makes learning meaningful and memorable.

References

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