Literary Circle Discussions and Note-taking On The Novel

ACADEMIC LEVEL: College

SUBJECT: Native Studies; English Language;

GOAL: To increase awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal writers while enhancing understanding of the written word

OBJECTIVES:
1. Students will improve his/her reading, writing and verbal skills
2. Students will analyse a literacy production or a production with social or cultural significance in English

LESSON PLAN: One novel is read by about one third of the class, hence three different novels are read by about 10 students. One of the favourite novels is Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road*.

15 minutes before each weekly quiz, the students have the opportunity to discuss and take notes on the story to date in their novel’s literary circle.

After the quiz, the literary circle members come to a consensus on the correct quiz answers as they peer-evaluate the quizzes.

Collect the quizzes and verify the answers and marks to avoid over-strict or over-lenient peer evaluators.

Quiz 1 Week

1. What is the setting?
2. Who are the characters and how are they developing?
3. What is the mood?
4. How do you relate to the story through your life experience?

Quiz 2 Week

1. How is the setting changing and how does it affect the story development?
2. Describe, with adjectives, how the characters are changing.
3. Has the mood and/or the tone changed?
4. How do you connect to the story to this part?

Quiz 3 Week

1. Discuss the settings and how they have affected the story to date.
2. Can you name the antagonist(s) and protagonist(s) and other key characters? What are their roles in the story development?
3. Has the mood or tone changed?
4. Is there someone or some event in the story that you can relate to?
5. How do you think the story will turn out? No spoilers please!

Quiz 4 Week

1. Discuss the topic(s) and theme(s) of the story.
2. How do you feel about the end of the story – happy/frustrated/disappointed/etc.?

MATERIALS: Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road* and two other novels

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:
1. Have the students visit a local library or bookstore to find and list articles and books written by Aboriginal authors that might be of interest to individual students
2. Have each student select one book or article and read it

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES:
1. Oral presentation of approximately eight minutes.
2. A literary analysis of approximately 550 words.

DEVELOPED BY: Aileen Lamont, Departement des Langues, Cégep de l’Outaouais, PQ.