

Stir it Up: Strategies for Diverse Learners

Nuts and Bolts Symposium 2017



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About Beth:

Beth has taught German and English as a Second Language at most grade and ability levels. She received her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Multicultural Teacher Education with an emphasis on Teaching English as a Second Language from the University of New Mexico. She served as the program coordinator for ESL at the Bavarian International School in Munich, Germany from 2010-2013. She currently works with teachers nationally and internationally on matters concerning English Language Learners.

Learning Outcomes

- Create an inclusive classroom community that supports all learners
- Participate in strategies that increase student engagement and achievement
- Develop literacy strategies for diverse learners

Strategies for Teaching Diverse Learners

1. Build Classroom Community
(Example with playing cards)
2. Lower the Affective Filter (Reach them before you teach them)
3. Set Goals with Students (ask students to personalize their goals)
4. Segment Instruction (one at a time)
5. Use Graphic Organizers
6. Incorporate Cooperative Learning (see next page)
7. Use visuals, imagery, video

Cooperative, Interactive Activities

1. Materials Hunt
2. Jot Thoughts
3. Name Tag
4. Interactive Graphic Organizer (Think-Puzzle-Explore *or* Know-Want -Learn)
5. Paired Reading
6. Running Dictation
7. Twists on Twister

The Chrysalis

One autumn a group of fifth-grade boys were walking to school when they came across a chrysalis. Excited by their discovery, they carefully picked up the chrysalis and took it to their teacher. Seeing this as a great learning opportunity, the teacher cautiously placed the chrysalis inside a dry aquarium.

Over the next few days the students grew more and more excited as they watched the chrysalis change. They saw antennae emerge from the chrysalis and then a little head. They were thrilled when, after a couple of weeks, the upper wings of the emerging colorful butterfly burst forth from the chrysalis.

As the students closely watched the butterfly, they began to grow concerned. The bottom wings seemed to be trapped inside the chrysalis. The butterfly struggled and struggled and the students could see the butterfly trying to work its wings out of the chrysalis. Then, one student had an idea. She would cut the chrysalis very carefully so that the butterfly's wings could escape. She found a pair of scissors, opened the aquarium, and gently cut the chrysalis.

When the chrysalis opened, the students were shocked by what they saw. The bottom wings of the butterfly had not yet completely formed. The teacher came in and saw the butterfly dragging itself around the aquarium, flapping the upper wings that had already formed.

The teacher then explained to the students what happened. The butterfly forms its wings by struggling to escape the chrysalis. If you cut the chrysalis before the butterfly has formed its wings, it will never learn how to fly.

Persian Folktale

What is the moral or message of this folktale?

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