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CI495C

Reflection 1

### Lesson #1: Themes/Symbols in the Scarlet Letter

When I first heard from Mr. Long that his class was reading The Scarlet Letter, I got somewhat worried because I had never read the novel before. But, luckily for me, Mr. Long was very accepting to the fact and allowed me to catch up on the text before my first lesson. As I reading, I noticed a lot of different concepts that ultimately led to the development of my lesson. First, and probably the most obvious, was the mentioning of the Letter A and its meaning to the townspeople. I knew from the start that I wanted to create a lesson that involved the development of some assignment, so I decided to start with the idea and assign the students to create their own letter. The next question that came up was, letter based on what?

After heavy thinking, I came to the conclusion of allowing the students to come up with their letter based on a sin that they felt was the worst a person could possibly do. The reason I did this was in The Scarlet Letter, the Puritan community looked at adultery as the worst sin there is. However, in connection to the class, I doubt that they felt the same way. Because of this disagreement, I wanted to create a lesson plan/assignment that could involve their opinions and get them into the story rather than just reading it. The results were astounding.

Because the A served as a symbol, I decided to create my lesson plan on the discussion about themes and symbols in literature. The goals of my lesson were: the ability to locate symbols in the novel, create media connections to the plot and characters, and emphasize the importance of themes in developing an understanding of the text. At first, the students seemed somewhat "bored," but once I made the media connection to the teen movie, Superbad, they opened up and seemed to really enjoy the discussion.

After the lesson, I assigned the Create Your Own Letter assignment and a week later they turned theirs in. I was very happily surprised at the quality of work in which they turned in. The Letters were all creative, their reasonings and connections were superb, and their papers were insightful and highly detailed. Of course, there were those that struggled in some of those areas, but I was mostly satisfied that every student at least accomplished one of my goals of the unit.