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CI495C

Reflection 2

Lesson #2: Themes/Quotes in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*

Unlike my initial reaction to the teaching of The Scarlet Letter, I was much more comfortable in teaching *Macbeth* because well, it is my favorite Shakespeare play. I felt honored that I would get the chance to teach such a rich and famous text to some students for the first time. The only thing that somewhat made me nervous was that it was the first lesson that my supervisor would be observing. But, instead of worrying, I created the lesson, put my game face on, and went for the gold. As I have been learning in class, to quote Larry Napoleon, "Fear prohibits progress."

I started off my lesson by talking about similar topics that I had spoken to the 10th graders a few days earlier. The only differences I made was that I created new media connections and I focused more on quotes rather than on symbols. *Macbeth* is rich in quotes, so I wanted to emphasize how important it is to understand quotes in Shakespeare in order to understand themes. The discussion was the same as the 10th graders, they did not really get into it until I made the media connection to *Mean Girls*. After that, they really opened up to me for the first time in my pre-service teaching experience, which ultimately put me on cruise control for the rest of the period.

After discussion, I took them all over to the board and helped them develop a Quote Chart to try and establish themes in the text. I started with one quote, developed a theme that could be attached to it, and then allowed each student to put a quote up on the board and try and find reoccurring themes. At one point into the activity, I honestly forgot my supervisor was in the room and I just allowed myself to reach my own personal comfort zone that not only I noticed, but my students as well. To attach a theme to this lesson... it would have to be the theme of *Success*. In all aspects of the word.