

Lesson Plan

Personal Enrichment with *The Egg*



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Introduction

Topic: Faith and God

Level: Intermediate

Timing: 45 minutes

Age: 16-18

Overview

The aim of this lesson is to make students aware of different types of beliefs in the same or different religions, in order to make them more open, tolerant, and accepting towards other culture and people with different belief systems. The lesson works best, when the classroom is filled with students from different religious and socio-economic backgrounds.

The warm-up (pre-reading) activity consists of writing words, or combination of words about what God means to the person to a paper, and making a copy of it. One of which is going to be collected and redistributed randomly, and the other is going to be kept, because it will play a role in the post-reading activity. After the redistribution some of the students can read aloud some of the words that people wrote about God. This activity makes them aware that God can be seen in various ways by different people.

For the second (while-reading) activity students will need another paper, while they will be reading the story they will have to write about Andy Weir's God character from the short story called *The Egg*. They have to make two lists, one of which will be about what they admire about his God character and another, with which they do not agree.

The third (post-reading) activity will be about creating a dialogue between themselves and their God character, with the help of their and someone other's note from the pre-reading activity, and the list that they created during the reading of the short story. This way they have to incorporate two other persons' viewpoint about God.

The calming-down activity is meditation, with which they can feel peace and tranquility at the end of the lesson.

Objectives for the students

- Being active and open during the lesson
- Being able to recognize the differences between the viewpoints
- Accepting other viewpoints

Prerequisites

The teacher has to observe the students on the lessons before this one. If the class is open and accepting the teacher will not have any problems connected to emotions during the lesson. If it isn't the case, and it usually isn't, especially the teacher is dealing with teenagers then s/he should give a homework before the lesson, listening to different sermons from different religions. Moreover, during the lesson, he has to be really tactful and has to pay really close attention not to offend anybody.

Description of the Activities

Getting to Know Each Other

Stage

Warm-Up (Pre-Reading)

Procedure

Every student writes at least 5 ideas in 5 words or combination of words that is connected to their God image. After that they make a copy of it. The teacher collects one slip of paper from everyone and redistributes them randomly. The students read aloud what is on the newly got paper.

Interaction

Whole class.

Student Activity

Writing, reading, listening to others, finding out information, being open and accepting.

Teacher Activity

Monitoring the students, collecting the slips of papers, redistributing the slips of papers, listening to what the students read aloud.

Reason

With the help of this activity the teacher introduces the topic of the lesson, which is the character of God. If it is carried out with tactfulness, then students will feel accepted, and become more open and accepting for the rest of the lesson. This changed attitude will help the teacher through the whole lesson, and makes the work much easier. The activity is a prerequisite for the post reading activity; the copy that they will be making will play a huge role and it will help them reflect and see the differences, between their previous views and the views that they possess after the lesson.

Aids

Slips of paper, pens.

Possible problems / Solutions

Some of the students do not have pens or slips of paper. - The teacher should have some.

Timing

10-15 minutes.

Reading *The Egg***Stage**

While-Reading

Procedure

Every student reads the short story and writes out characteristics of the God character of Andy Weir, in two separate lists. One of which will contain the qualities they admire about the character and another which they do not agree with.

Interaction

Individual work.

Student Activity

Reading, writing, finding out information, evaluating information.

Teacher Activity

Distributing the printed-out version of the text, monitoring the students.

Reason

This activity will make the students more aware of the differences between the God image of people. With the help of the writing activity, they will be able to pay closer attention to the characteristics, and comprehend more thoroughly the views of other people. It will make the students more open, and accepting by finding out different qualities, that they have never associated with God, their image of God might change.

Aids

Printed out version of the text, slips of paper, pens.

Possible problems / Solutions

Some of the students do not have pens or slips of paper. The teacher should have some.

Timing

15-20 minutes.

A Discussion with God

Stage

Post-Reading

Procedure

Every student writes a conversation between themselves and God, but they have to incorporate at least 2 characteristics from the slip of paper that they have written at the beginning of the lesson, 2 characteristics from the slip of paper that the teacher distributed, and 2 positive and 2 negative characteristics from the while-reading activity.

Interaction

Individual work.

Student Activity

Writing, reflecting, being open and accepting.

Teacher Activity

The teacher will be in the act of a coach, listens, observes, and helps only if it is necessary (the student asks for help, or cannot get through a point, and because of it, s/he cannot complete the task)

Reason

The activity will be pushing them towards a change, the students undergoing this activity will have to incorporate some of the believes of others into their own work and thoughts, with which they can become more open, this is the most crucial part of the lesson, with the help of which they can change the most.

Aids

Slips of paper, the lists, pens.

Possible problems / Solutions

The students are blocked by their emotional stage – The teacher has to comfort them and stay very calm and reassure them.

Timing

15 minutes.

Meditation**Stage**

Calming-Down.

Procedure

The teacher starts a calming music on the computer, and both the students and the teacher start meditating.

Interaction

Individual work.

Student Activity

Calming down, reflecting.

Teacher Activity

Playing music from a computer, calming down, reflecting.

Reason

The students need some time to become relaxed after a demanding lesson. Meditation is a perfect way of doing that. Besides this point, it fits the theme of the lesson.

Aids

Computer

Possible problems / Solutions

The computer stops working – Do the meditation without music.

Timing

5 minutes.

The Egg

By: Andy Weir

The story is available at: <http://www.galactanet.com/oneoff/theegg_mod.html>