

LITERATURE: KEEPING IT ALIVE

By:

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Literary works are written accounts that are considered evocative and have an enduring significance throughout decades and even centuries. These are often creative works that mirror the situation and condition of the people and the society during the time of its creation. However, many 21st century learners seemed uninterested anymore in the subjects relating to literature. They do not even value literature as part of their English subject. Learners find literature a boring and pointless subject or topic. For some students, the literary works that are being discussed are already senseless for their generation.

Regarding this matter, one of the main reasons for this dilemma among the students is the relativity of the literary works to their experiences. There is a possibility that the story being discussed is out of the learner's context because they can no longer relate to the setting and events present inside the story. Thus, the students will fail to appreciate the beauty of the literary work. In addition to this, Chris Meadows (2012) mentioned in one of his articles entitled, "Classic Literature: Boring or Relevant?" that, "it is not really too surprising that people are more interested in focusing on the new today because they hunger for novelty, and think that 'old' means 'boring'". Nowadays, teachers are dealing with the so-called "millennials", the learners often seek something exciting and up-to-date materials to which they can relate.

Another factor is the short attention span of the learners. Many of them cannot bear the lengthy readings given by the teacher because for some, reading is tedious work to do. Lack of interest in reading is one of the problems why many students consider literature as one of the most uninteresting subjects or topics in a typical classroom setting.

Moreover, relating to this problem, literature also comes with analysis and comprehension because many literary works use literary devices and the messages that are being implied are sometimes hidden and the learners have to re-read the text again or close read it, hence, making the learners lose their motivation in the literature.

To cope with this predicament, the teacher must choose some literary pieces that will create significance to the life and experiences of the learners. In addition, using those literary pieces may able a learner to be engaged in the discussion and through those pieces, the teacher will be able to arouse their interest to listen. The discussion of those kinds of literary pieces can also create an impact on them that will make them easily retain the information related to the text.

Further, literature circles could also be effective to engage students during the discussion. Small groups in the class and the members would discuss and explore the text with each other. On the other hand, the teacher would guide the students to assess if their comprehension is correct, "and students were able to articulate their ideas and build upon the thoughts of others using accountable talks and as time progressed, they were able to respond to the reading and they enjoyed doing so." (Nicole Nigro, Using Literature Circles To Engage Students, 2011).

References:

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