

Der Struwwelpeter

World Language Level 1: Communicate in Languages Other Than English Standard 7

Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through studying the target language and its culture.

- a. Examine authentic literature. (e.g. Collect selections from children's literature, poetry, folktales and songs; Read newspaper headlines and predict content of the article).

5th grade Language Arts Standard V: Fluency

Students develop reading fluency to read aloud grade level text effortlessly without hesitation.

5th grade Language Arts Standard VII: Comprehension

Students understand, interpret, and analyze narrative and informational grade level text.

Objective 2: Apply strategies to comprehend text.

- f. Identify theme/topic/main idea from text; note details.

Guiding Questions:

- What is the purpose of the poems of Der Struwwelpeter? How do the drawings in the book add meaning and tone to the poems?

Support Materials:

- Class laptops (15 for 30 students)
- Digital copy of Der Struwwelpeter in English
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/12116/12116-h/12116-h.htm>
- Each student's vocabulary/writing journal
- Struwwelpeter Museum website with stories read in German -
<http://www.struwwelpeter-museum.de/struwwelpetergeschichten.htm>
- English/German version of Der Struwwelpeter
- Assorted art materials for making puppets

Background:

Der Struwwelpeter (1845) is a popular German children's book by Heinrich Hoffmann. It comprises ten illustrated and rhymed stories, mostly about children. Each has a clear moral that demonstrates the disastrous consequences of misbehavior in an exaggerated way. The title of the first story provides the title of the whole book. Literally translated, Struwwel-Peter means Shaggy-Peter. According to Ellen Handler Spitz, the book was intended as a highly exaggerated

send-up of the pietistic children's books of the day in which good little children came to good ends, and the badly behaved did not.

Hoffmann, a German psychiatrist, wanted to buy a picture book for his son for Christmas in 1844. Not impressed by what the stores had to offer, he instead bought a notebook and wrote his own stories and pictures.

“The Big Picture”

Students will gain an understanding of one work of German children’s literature while understanding the difficulties of translating a text to a different language.

The Lesson

Introduction:

- Write the title “Der Struwwelpeter” on the whiteboard and the translation of it: Shaggy Peter
- Give the class the background information about the text and its author. Listen to one of the poems online in the original German.
- Read two or three of the translated poems to the class from the printed text. Inform the students that this translation was done by Mark Twain. Show the students the illustrations as well.

Guided Instruction:

- Explain to the class that they will be reading a version of the book online as well.
- Have the students read two or three poems online together noting the pictures.
- Have the students make a note in their writing notebooks of the titles of the poems and the message that each poem is trying to teach. How do the illustrations help you understand the tone of the poems?

Cooperative Activity:

- Have each pair of students pair up with the other students at their table. Have the four of them share the poems that they read and the messages they taught.
- Ask the students if they noticed that the text of the poems online and the text of the one read aloud were different. Lead a discussion as to why this would be. What are the inherent difficulties in translating text from one language into another?

Lesson Conclusion:

- Explain to the students that each pair of students will be making puppets and performing for the class a poem that they will choose from the text. They will need to decide on the division of labor, including the reading of the poem and the action of the puppet.

- Provide art materials for the puppet making. Give the students guidelines as to how much time they have to complete the puppets, any props, and practice their presentation for the class. Provide enough class time to complete the assignment.

Assessment Products:

Evaluation: Use the rubric provided at the following website

http://198.104.156.44/lesson_images/lesson914/rubric-puppet.pdf