

Daedal Doodle

Lesson One: Every Picture tells a Story: Introduction to Illustration

In this lesson students will learn what “to Illustrate” means in both literature and the visual arts. They will be shown a number of illustrations where they will be asked to identify mood, character, setting, etc. They will also write illustrative sentences or paragraphs inspired by presented illustrations.



Grade Levels: 9-12

Subjects: English – Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening
Visual Arts – Illustration, Critical and Aesthetic Response

PA Core: English Language Arts:

CC.1.3.9-10.D: Analyze how words and phrases shape meaning and tone in texts.

PA Academic Standards:

Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:

1.5.12.D: Write with an understanding of style using a variety of sentence structure and descriptive word choices. Create tone and voice through the use of precise language.

Art:

9.3.12.A: Explain and apply the critical examination processes of works in the arts and humanities: compare and contrast, analyze, interpret, form and test hypotheses, evaluation/judgements.

Objectives: Students will...

learn and demonstrate understanding of the words illustrate and illustration.

be able to infer meaning from an illustration, deducing setting, character and mood.

create an illustrative sentence or paragraph inspired from an illustration.

Suggested Art images:

Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
Illustrator, John Tenniel



The Wizard of Oz
Illustrator, W.W. Denslow



The Runaway
Illustrator, Norman Rockwell



Materials:

Art images

Paper

Pencils

Introduction:

Ask students if they can define “to illustrate” or define “illustration’. Write their responses on the board. Next, read to the class the definitions below.

Definition of “Illustrate” in Art:

To illustrate is to provide a text with explanatory or decorative images.

Definition of “Illustrate” in Literature:

To illustrate is to clarify or explain, as by the use of examples or comparisons.

Discuss how close their answers were to the definitions.

Explain that in literature, illustration is descriptive and specific and can include dialogue and sensory language. Give examples of illustration in literature. Such as, “He smiles softly, lips curling with anticipation as he approaches the stage. Hands slightly shaking, he grabs the microphone and gives a curt nod to the piano player to begin.” Or, have students pick out illustrative passages from a piece of text you are currently reading in class. Next, show some images of familiar illustrations and ask what they infer about the story from the illustration shown. (Alice and Oz illustrations) What can they tell about the character shown, setting, plot or mood? Compare and contrast the different artistic styles of each illustrator. What kind of colors do they use, what kind of lines, are the illustrations detailed?

Activity:

Show two illustrations where the story is not as easily identifiable. (Runaway and Towpath) Ask the students to write an illustrative sentence or paragraph that is inspired by the image. Have students share what they wrote and explain the choices they made with their writing.

Tales of the Towpath
Illustrator, Dennis Gerhart



Reflection:

Ask students again to define “to illustrate”. Ask students how illustrations (both literature and visual arts) can help the reader better understand the story. Ask if they have any favorite illustrators. Did they learn something new today that they didn’t know before?