

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: 6-8

Subjects: English – Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

Visual Arts – Illustration, Critical and Aesthetic Response

PA Core: English Language Arts:

CC:1.4.7.O: Use narrative techniques such as dialogue, description, and pacing to develop

experiences, events, and/or characters; use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.

PA Academic Standards:

Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:

1.5.7.D: Write with an understanding of style, using a variety of sentence structures and an appropriate array of descriptive word choices. Create tone and voice through the use of precise language.

Art:

9.3.8.A: Know and use the critical process of the examination 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:

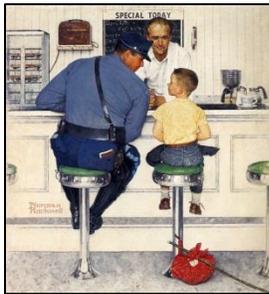
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Illustrator, John Tenniel



The Runaway

Illustrator, Norman Rockwell



The Wizard of Oz

Illustrator, W.W. Denslow



Tales of the Towpath

Illustrator, Dennis Gerhart



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) First ask the students what they see. Have them describe objects in the illustrations using descriptive language, e.g., the bright red bag, the shiny stools, the watchful dog. Next ask students what they think is happening. Who are these people in the illustrations? Why do you think that? Are these images depicting scenes from now or long ago? How long ago? Ask the students to write an illustrative sentence or paragraph that is inspired by the image using descriptive language. Have students share what they wrote and explain the choices they made with their writing.

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?

Learning Extensions:

You may want to take time to introduce the work of Norman Rockwell to students, discussing with them how he created stories with his illustrations and how he depicted the times in which he lived.

Life on the canal could also be discussed using illustrations from Tales of the Towpath. Students may find it interesting how families worked together on the canal boats and that even young children had responsibilities, such as leading the mules down the towpath.