



LEYENDAS AND CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Level: high school
Course: English or Spanish

Rationale

Having an authentic audience for a study of the forms of literature will help motivate the students to learn and will improve the reading abilities of students. Students will also learn cultural information from the Southwest and Latin America. Students will need to comprehend each story in order to illustrate the story correctly.

Lesson Overview

In this project, students will develop a connection with a kindergarten or first grade student by reading children's literature to them. At the same time, the student will explore the cultural writings, legends, and folk tales from the Southwest and Latin America. Students will complete two projects using two different cultural writings, legends, or folk tales. One project will be completed on the computer and the second will be in another format. At least one of the projects must be completed in a form that can be given to the kindergarten student to keep.

Time Needed

This project was designed to be completed in a 4 1/2 week two period block seminar class. However, the project can be tailored to fit the needs of the classroom teacher and students.

by
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Materials

For research:

necessary: books of short stories, folk tales, and legends from Latin America and the Southwest

helpful: World Wide Web access for students to research cultural writings

For student produced computer product:

necessary: Storybook Weaver, (or if not available, use ClarisWorks, SuperPaint or HyperStudio)

helpful: printer

For student produced story product

necessary: construction paper, markers, other materials as needed by students to complete projects.

Procedures

1. The teacher should arrange with a feeder school kindergarten class to have the students read stories once a week to the children. The students can also take the children to the library and help them pick out books to read and check out.
2. Begin by having the students read different folk tales and leyendas from the Southwest and Latin America.
3. Have the students look at children's books that the teacher supplies. Assess the different styles used for the stories, such as: repetitive, textures, sounds, etc. Also have students discuss ideas of violence and stereotyping in the stories and the implications of those.
4. Have students research leyendas and folk tales from Latin America and the Southwest.
5. The students then produce two products, one using the computer and one in any other form. Remind them that one must be in a form to give to the kindergartner at the completion of the project.

Follow-up Activities

Have the students present their produced products to the children. One of the products should be given to the child to keep.

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