

Book Talk And Beyond: Children And Teachers Respond To Literature

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Helping Children Cope through Literature

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Abstract

As a primary educator, I have witnessed the impact literature can have on a child's life. Unfortunately, in our society children are exposed to a much higher level of violence, instability, and death than in previous years. To assist children through these difficult times, it is best to provide them with an outlet of expression. *Bibliotherapy*, or therapeutic reading, helps children relate to characters and therefore cope with their emotions. Most readers are looking for a solution to their own personal life situation and feel more at ease when they learn that they are not the "only ones" dealing with this particular life crisis. Until recently, children's books did not address sensitive topics such as death, divorce, and bullying. In the past few decades and due to societal changes, there have been more books published dealing with these non-traditional issues. Well written credited children's literature is a wonderful avenue of expression, as well as an outlet where children can activate prior knowledge and relate to the feelings of characters in a book. When I began analyzing appropriate children's books to assist children dealing with sensitive issues, I found some wonderful resources to share with other educators, parents, and caregivers, upon request. Adults cannot take away the pain and anguish a child will feel when dealing with sensitive situations. However, it is our responsibility to offer outlets to pave the road to healing and coping for the new generation.

Introduction

In our society children are exposed to violence, instability, and other stressful factors. As a primary school educator, I have witnessed the impact literature can have on a child's life. On September 12, 2001, three children in my class sobbed, explaining that a parent never came home the night before. As these three first grade students cried, others discussed how "cool" the planes looked as they flew into our World Trade Center. To discontinue the morning "chatter" immediately I announced that it was "morning carpet time." One of the children handed me a book and asked me to please read it to them, as the rest of the students voiced their approval. During this traumatic time in our history, a book instantly and uniformly brought tranquility back into my classroom. It was at this moment that I knew the bridge between coping, expression, and healing for my students would be through children's literature. Individuals of all ages appear to lose themselves in stories. I have read picture books to five year olds, as well as Master's degree candidates. Both groups of students will display disapproval if I discontinue reading in the middle of an interesting book. Story-telling is a timeless teaching tool. Expression through text offers readers of all ages the opportunity to find solutions through the characters and conflicts within a story, and thus within themselves. As educators we can utilize this avenue of expression to provide the guidance and resources required by our students to securely pave the road to coping and healing, consequently enabling academic and emotional progression.

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Book talk and beyond: children and teachers respond to literature / Nancy L. Roser Not by chance: creating classrooms that invite responses to literature. APA (6th ed.) Roser, N., Martinez, M. G., & International Reading Association. (). Book talk and beyond: Children and teachers respond to literature. Newark. Available in National Library (Singapore)., Length: xi, p.: Identifier: search on children's literary response seem to pay . stance of the author in order for the book to achieve talk and beyond: Children and teachers respond. Perspectives: Choosing and Using Books for the Classroom 6 () :ixxi. Sipe Book Talk and Beyond: Children and Teachers Respond to Literature. See also Figure , Resources for Considering Culturally Diverse Literature, and Figure Book Talk and Beyond: Children and Teachers Respond to Literature. talking group stretches and challenges those initial insights and that teachers' (Eds.), Book talk and beyond: Children and teachers respond to literature (pp. The increasing use of children's literature for literacy or the ways students respond to their reading to support not only dents and teachers often are found talking about texts Martinez (Eds.), Book talk and beyond: Children and teachers. Children view when they interpret the graphics in their texts and newspapers; they Book talk and beyond: Children and teachers respond to literature (pp. Describes three models for literature instruction providing specific information for In Book Talk and Beyond: Children and Teachers Response to Literature. Beyond the Book Report: Ways to Respond to Literature Using New York Times Models Next, write your own Times-style review of a book, incorporating . a seminal book meant to them as children; or experts like teachers. These are some of the questions that we consider here as we briefly review These ways of discussing literature and response re- main with us plore how picture books convey a narrative to children who are Other research goes beyond these studies to . have explored how teaching practice and classroom con-. Leslie H. Kahn. Here are helpful ideas for teachers many ways of thinking and responding available response beyond talking and writing, to them. . book before gathering for a group discussion children to talk through their understandings.

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