Teaching Literature Rhetorically: Transferable Literacy Skills for 21st Century Students

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Summary

“When am I ever going to need this again?” If you’ve heard students ask this in your English class, Jennifer Fletcher has just the answer. Teaching Literature Rhetorically shows you how to help your students develop transferable literacy skills that allow them to succeed not just in their English classes, but, more importantly, their future tertiary studies, career and beyond.

The book is built around eight high-utility literacy skills and practices that will help students communicate effectively and with confidence as they navigate important transitions in their lives:

- integrating skills and knowledge
- reading closely and critically
- assessing rhetorical situations
- negotiating different perspectives
- developing and supporting a line of reasoning
- analysing genres;
- communicating with self and others in mind
- reading and writing with passion.

Teaching Literature Rhetorically offers readers writing prompts, readings, discussion questions, graphic organisers, as well as examples of student work and activities for helping students to understand key rhetorical concepts. As Jennifer writes in her introduction “rhetorical thinking promotes the transfer of learning – the single most important goal we can have as teachers if we hope to have a positive impact on our students’ lives”. By teaching literature rhetorically, we prepare students to be adaptive thinkers and communicators who can transfer their learning to new tasks and settings. This book explores rhetorical approaches to novels, short stories, poetry, drama and multicultural and young adult literature that empower ALL students to read and write across the diverse contexts of today and tomorrow.

Other Resources

- Teaching Arguments: Rhetorical Comprehension, Critique, and Response (SHP4063)
- Close Reading in the Secondary Classroom: The Classroom Strategies Series (MRL6951)
- The Writing Thief: Using Mentor Texts to Teach the Craft of Writing (SHP2762)
- Caring Hearts and Critical Minds: Literature, Inquiry and Social Responsibility (SHP7972)