

QUAD Book Thread – Lesson Ideas for QUAD by C G Watson

Elementary Aged Students: QUAD is not appropriate for students 6th grade or younger

Junior High & High School:

- *History* – chronology of violence in schools (Viet Nam War protests at Kent State; civil rights protests in Little Rock; Columbine; Virginia Tech) and what was the impetus for each act of violence
- *Literature* – compare to other books and or movies on school violence and/or bullying
 - BOOKS:
 - Walter Dean Myers, Shooter
 - Walter Dean Myers, Monster
 - Todd Strasser, Give a Boy a Gun
 - Jodi Picoult, Nineteen Minutes
 - MOVIES:
 - Shooter
 - Monster
 - Give a Boy a Gun
 - Nineteen Minutes
- *English* – use QUAD as a basis for creative writing
 - found poetry (see example that follows)
 - rain of words
 - newspaper articles
- *Art* – based on the story line in QUAD or personalized to your school
 - Group mural
 - Collage
 - PSA's and posters
- *Any subject* – discussion points
 - Questionnaire (attached)
 - websites:
 - www.mixitup.org
 - www.challengeday.org
 - www.boostup.org
 - www.teachingtolerance.org
 - www.dayofsilence.org

College/University: QUAD as college curriculum

- Freshman Book in Common
- Teacher Training
- Access and Equity
- Controversial / Youth Literature
- Psychology (juvenile psychology)

FOUND POEM

[Each student contributed one line, lifted verbatim from the book; they put the lines together in the same random order in which they were presented, which was not necessarily the same order in which things took place in the story].

QUAD

Thrummed with rage
Freaking awesome game
Hottie at the gym
Bumming
You killed her
Throngs of devotees
To belong somewhere
Fought off a fresh wave of tears
Gonna get our asses kicked
Sandals-and-granola
She had Brittny's blood on her
Who invited you? The gargoyle asked
Pinkie swear
Mean
Somehow, make it right
Feeling stupid all of a sudden
Payback's a bitch
I can think of a way to keep Paisley in her place
Why do people have to be so mean?

(used by permission of students from Cal. State University, Chico RDGL 657)

QUAD Discussion Points – Questionnaire

START HERE:

- Name 5 labels or cliques at your school.
- Write any labels that have been used (correctly or incorrectly) to describe you.
- Write 3 adjectives for each label (in other words, what language do people use to decide who gets what label?)
- Name up to 3 main things people fight about at your school.
- Think of someone you have judged or had conflict with (do NOT write their name) and write 3 *positive* things about that person (NO negatives, no matter how hard it might be!)

NOW TRY THIS:

- Write 5 ways that people might use to get out of having a fight.
- Name all the people (either adults or peers) who you would consider as allies (someone you can go to, who you can trust, who's always got your back).
- Name the 5 most influential people in your life.
- Write 2-3 adjectives for each person (in other words, what impact do these people have on your life)?

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE LAST QUESTION, CONSIDER THIS:

- We only see about 10% of who people really are. Just like an iceberg – 90% of what's really there is hidden under the waterline. Things we don't see "under the waterline": hopes, dreams, fears, talents, love, the past, emotions, pain ...
- Anyone can judge people – it's easy. Finding the good in others is courageous.
- Seeing below the waterline is what makes us human, and what prevents a tragedy like the one in QUAD.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO BE REMEMBERED?

