LITERATURE ILLUSTRATIONS: QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Showing students quality illustrations of a story read in class can be a meaningful enrichment activity. It is important that illustrations be shown after the story has been read, as this allows the students to imagine the story for themselves rather than relying on the imagination of the illustrator.

Ideally, these pictures are projected onto a screen or board where all students can easily see them. If the teacher is intentional about drawing answers out from students and inviting discussion among them, these pictures can serve as the content matter for the day.

The following is a list of questions that apply to most children's story illustrations.

1. What is this a picture of?
2. What is happening in this scene?
3. Did this happen in the story we read?
    a. If so, when did this happen?
    b. If not, could we add this to the story? When?
4. What happened before this scene?
5. What happened after this scene?
6. What is the most interesting thing you notice?
7. How would you describe insert character or object here? Why?
8. Does anything in this picture look different from how you had imagined it? Why?
9. [If comparing two or more illustrations] Which of these images looks more like the story we read? What makes you say that?

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