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Sincerely,
Karen Haag

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Tableau

ENGAGE

- T displays photo of a tableau scene on SmartBoard (page 2).
- Partners talk to one another about whether this photo shows people acting or doing something different but similar.
- Students should notice that adults are not acting but are frozen. If not, lead them to notice.
- T names the strategy: tableau.
- T defines tableau: students create a frozen picture. The key is to (1) freeze; (2) use expression, and (3) match the statue formation to the words and (4) “break the vertical plane”. (In other words, a tableau is 3 dimensional. Students move their arms and their legs to a frozen position.)
- Students discuss what they think the people are representing.

MATERIALS

1. Display photo on SmartBoard. (Photo is on p 2.)
2. Display learning target where students can see it.
3. Students need to be assigned a partner with whom they can work peacefully.
4. Index card/student
5. Select text to read aloud.

EXPLAIN LEARNING TARGET

I can create a tableau with a partner to demonstrate comprehension of a text.

EXPLORE

- For practice, students represent the word(s) with their partners: (1) lost, (2) we climbed up the hill. They talk with their partners to discuss how each will freeze and show expression.
- T reads a pre-selected text aloud, stopping at predetermined points.
- When T stops reading, partners talk to one another and create a tableau that depicts the scene.
- T observes which students understand. She might ask teams to explain or point out particularly creative “frozen pictures” they created.
- T continues reading the story to a predetermined point. Ask students to create a tableau where they predict the ending.
- T reads to the end so students can confirm or disconfirm their predictions. Discuss.

Students EXPLAIN

1. Tell your partner what you understood about the story after tableau that you didn’t know before.
2. Tell your partner how using visualization will help you when you read.

EVALUATE LEARNING TARGET

→ **EXIT SLIP:** (1) What is a tableau?

And with older students: (2) How does creating tableau help me read better?

EXTEND

1. Teacher reads a story aloud.
2. Students brainstorm words or phrases they remember from the story. T records.
3. Students break into teams of 4 and each team depicts one word or phrase (scene) from the list.
4. Each scene is presented and explained to the rest of the class. Students tell why they chose to freeze the way they did and why they chose the expressions they did.
5. T may need to critique tableaus if students don’t understand. Their ideas can’t be wrong, but they do need to (1) freeze, (2) use expression, (3) match the tableau to the words, and (4) break the vertical plane for the best effect.

6. Teachers also use tableaux for assessment of students' comprehension and reteach as needed.
7. T rereads the book aloud. Each team creates their tableau for their scene to enjoy a full rereading and frozen skit of the book.



Sensory Imaging (Visualization)

Tableau, a French word, means a dramatic scene or picture. This theater-based technique can be adapted as an effective educational strategy for learning across content areas. Students use their bodies and expression to create a picture of a character or event frozen in a moment in time. Artist and teachers work together to help students enact the vocabulary and understand the stories main idea. Students build their understanding through creative problem solving and group discussion. Teachers are learning new strategies from the artist to support their teaching. This strategy can be applied to fiction and non-fiction writing, social studies, science, or visual art.

Tableau involves incorporating theater lessons into the language arts curriculum. The theater lessons encourage the kids to visualize, use descriptive language, and put their imaginations to work. And the results have been outstanding – the students are showing better comprehension and, best of all, are having fun participating in their lessons! See video: <http://bit.ly/x78gdv>