

Short Stories – Fostering Reading

Learning Outcome: Students will become engaged readers.

Summary: Students read short stories in a book. Each student was assigned to present one story from the book, and submits questions for the other stories.

Procedure

1. Select a book that has short stories on your topic of choice.
2. Assign a story to one or more (if necessary) student for presentation. The presentation consists of a written summary to be turned in, presenting the summary in class and reading one paragraph from the story that touched the student. The summary and presentation are used to determine the grade.
3. The non-presenting students read the story (stories) to be presented and write two questions that they can ask the presenter. The questions are turned in for a grade.

Example Application: In the Freshman Seminar course, “AIDS and Society,” 28 Stories of AIDS in Africa was selected, and each student was assigned a story. There happened to be 28 students in the class but the numbers can be adjusted based on class size.

Outcome and Impressions: This was a wonderful book that the students enjoyed reading. The stories touched them so they were more likely to read them.

As the semester progressed, the non-presenting students stopped reading. That is when I instituted the two questions assignment and the participation increased. This is a wonderful way to encourage our students to become more avid readers.