Reading Whole-Class Books in Mixed Level ESL Classes

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Background

- Mixed Level: levels 1 - 5
- ALRC - Mixed Level resources
- Divided class into three groups:
  - Groups A, B, C
- Followed a structured daily plan
“Activities”

- Pre-made leveled readers
- DIY leveled readers
- Individual reading lessons
- Casually omitting reading
A new idea:

What if we all read the same book at the same time?
My Plan

1. Choose a book
2. Read it together on a regular schedule
3. Facilitate all-class discussion
4. Tailor leveled follow-up lessons + class share
5. Develop final group project
Step 1.

Choose a book

- What is available - *Who is/was?* books
- Same-level group reports
- All class voting
Step 2.

Read together on a regular schedule

- Mondays are reading day; one chapter per week
- Discuss title and pictures
- Read each chapter three times:
  - Teacher led
  - Individual reading
  - Same-ability group out loud reading
Step 3.

Facilitate all-class discussion

- Leveled questions (with text dependent features):
  - Group A - *Who is one person in this chapter?*
  - Group B - *What happened to that person in this chapter?*
  - Group C - *What is important about what happened in this chapter?*

- Class-led chapter summary
  - Popsicle sticks; student notetaker at the board
Step 4.

Tailor leveled follow-up lessons + group share

- **Example -- “Summary”**
  - Group A - Draw the action (comic book graphic organizer)
  - Group B - Find the main idea (summary graphic organizer)
  - Group C - Write a 5-sentence summary; peer editing

- **Group Share**
  - Each group presents their work for the class
Step 5.

Develop final group project

- Example -- “Our Human Rights” (*Who is Malala Yousafzai?*)
  - Wrap-up activity - UN Declaration of Human Rights
  - Assign groups - mixed abilities
  - Assign group roles - writer, artist, speaker, tech coordinator
  - Create a presentation about someone from a home country that embodies one of the amendments from the list
Reflection

- Communal Learning
- Differentiated Instruction
- Peer Support
- Added Confidence
Outcomes

- Meets readers at their level
- Bolsters community
- Encourages peer support
- Develops a love of reading
- Improves reading abilities
Resources

*Note that the resources I found and the examples that inspired this project were focused on children - just apply them to your adult learners appropriately!

- “The Advantages of Teaching Whole-Class Novels”
- “Why Whole-Class Novels Can Be a Good Thing”
- “Whole-Class Novels Reading Workshop Style”
- ReadWriteThink
“It is through others, that we become ourselves”

- Lev S. Vygotsky
Keep in touch!

Please email if you’d like this deck and let me know how Whole-Class Reading works out in your classroom!

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