

American Born Chinese

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Article of the Week Strategy

Context:

This strategy can be used throughout the novel reading process to help students gain background knowledge on key themes within the novel or concepts to be taught each day. This strategy will also help reach the common core standards of integrating informational texts with the other texts taught in the classroom. Each article picked should match the larger lesson taught the same day.

Purpose:

The main purpose of this strategy is to give students the knowledge necessary to understand parts of the texts or help students become more aware of issues that come up in the novel. This strategy can also be used as a daily routine before beginning the main lesson to make the main lesson more meaningful.

Materials Needed:

- An informational article that relates to the day's lesson

Time Allotted:

5-10 minutes

Steps:

1. Find an article that relates to a theme, idea, or concept that you want to teach your students. For example, find an article that tells about Chinese myth and fables. One about the Monkey King story would be perfect on the first or second day of reading the novel.
2. Have students spend the first couple minutes of class reading the article and filling out questions that relate to the article. These questions can vary in length and difficulty depending on what you want students to get out of the article and should be on the same paper as the article. Here are some questions that could go along with the hypothetical article about the Monkey King:
 - What is the name of the Monkey King fable in this article?
 - How is this like the story about the Monkey King?
 - What is the moral of this fable and how could it foreshadow events within the novel?

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3. (Optional) have students talk about these articles as a tie in with the lesson for the day. There may be some articles that do not need to be directly or explicitly talked about after the students read them.

Assessment:

Have students turn in the articles with their writings on it to make sure that they got the main idea or have answered the questions correctly. These articles will also give you an opportunity to see how students are writing and if there should be lessons on improving their writing about the novel.