



Parrot in the Oven By Victor Martinez
Anticipation Guide

Purpose:

The purpose of this strategy is to allow students to start thinking about major themes in the novel before they begin reading. By having to agree or disagree with a series of statements, students become connected with themes. This also is a chance for students to make predictions about the novel based on the statements and themes. As a class, you can discuss the controversial statements and get students to see both sides of an issue, and even challenge their thinking a little.

Directions:

STEP 1

Major concepts addressed in *Parrot in the Oven*: The reality of cultural discrimination, Mexican American life, dysfunctional families, poverty, growing up, finding your identity, being accepted by peers, crushes, etc.

STEP 2

Next, use the major concepts to create short, thought-provoking statements. The more controversial the better. Create statements that students can relate to; for example, ideas or opinions about poverty, money, peer pressure, relationships with family or peers, what discrimination is, etc.

STEP 3

In class, plan to spend about 30 minutes working with and discussing the anticipation guide. Distribute individual worksheets of the statements to students. Direct the students to write an "A" if they agree or "D" if they disagree in the left-hand column for each statement. Have students first complete the guides on their own before doing it in small groups or as a whole class.

STEP 4



Conduct a class discussion about the concepts before the students read the text. Ask students why they agree or disagree with certain statements or call on students to support their answer. Have them give examples from past experience and explain the decision-making process by which they arrive at their answers.

Step 5

Students read the text, keeping in mind the statements and themes addressed in the guide in relation with the novel. They can do this by using sticky notes to mark the themes the teacher asks them to look for in the novel as they read. Allow regular opportunities for students to discuss the appearance of the themes with a partner or in class discussion.

Step 6

Revisit the anticipation guide and discuss how the author or characters in the novel feel about the statements. Let students redo the guide and compare and contrast how their view point has changed.



Anticipation Guide for *Parrot in the Oven*

Directions:

Read the statements below and decide whether you agree or disagree with each. Write “A” for agree and “D” for Disagree. Underneath each statement explain why you agree or disagree. After filling out the sheet individually, you will discuss your choices in small groups.

Agree/Disagree

- _____ If you are tough, you will be respected.
Why:
- _____ To be labeled courageous requires doing something dangerous or risky.
Why:
- _____ The more money you have, the easier life will be.
Why:
- _____ It is possible to discriminate against others without saying/doing anything.
Why:
- _____ Kids with irresponsible or abusive parents are expected to have problems.
Why:
- _____ You should never give into peer pressure.
Why:
- _____ Having a crush on someone is a painful experience.
Why:
- _____ There is no harm in owning guns meant for hunting or target practice.
Why: