

Lions and Tigers and Manipulatives...OH MY!

April 9, 2013

Today went really well in my mind. We are finally getting into *The Giver* and starting to have good discussions. I've already learned that these students absolutely LOVE manipulatives and need them in order to fully participate. Today, I was able to work manipulatives into two parts of my lesson.

The first was an animal activity. In the book, the community does not know what animals are, so I gave my students specific animals to describe without using animal terms. I used distinctive animals such as: elephants, walruses, peacocks, black widows, otters, polar bears, octopi, and even a T-Rex! The kids worked to create posters describing the animals but without using animal words like "fur," "claws," or other animal names. They then had to describe the animal to see if anyone could guess it. It was a good way to work on descriptive writing but also have everyone participate.

The next activity discussed the connotation of words. I had nine of the most theatrical students act out different types of walking, from bouncing to limping, from swaggering to sulking. It was fun because they learned the importance of word choice and the difference between negative and positive connotation.

Overall, I think today was a rousing success. We had no discipline problems (a rare feat!) and everyone participated. This is a good way to head into the PSSAs!