March 5, 2013

Today, I got to see the results of the creative projects I assigned on *Silas Marner*. For the most part, I've been really impressed with my students; we've had quite a few success stories:

We had a boy who stutters and therefore gets really nervous when he's presenting, give a stellar reading of his detective story. He was animated, excited, and well spoken. The entire class gave him a standing ovation when he finished and I honestly wanted to cry. I couldn't help but think that *this* is why I want to teach, for these beautiful moments.

I had another student in my honors class do a puppet show/live action performance that blew me away. I was so impressed by her as well because she is usually quiet. It was fantastic to see her come alive in this way. It was so obvious that a lot of hard work and planning went into her project.

These students really worked hard when given an outlet and I couldn't be happier to provide them with something like this. I haven't given anyone less than an A-, and I was grading really hard. They deserve these grades! I think if we give students options and let them choose, they will all work harder and create more.