

Student Debate

February 26, 2013

Today was another day where I tried something new. I worked really hard to plan something creative based on the ending of the novel. So, I had my students participate in a debate over who was the better father for Eppie – Silas or Godfrey. I let them choose teams like in gym class. It was interesting because I highlighted the two students with the highest quiz grades by making them team captains. I think it encouraged other students to work hard so perhaps they could be leaders of another activity. Some of the captains were certainly a surprise, both to me and the rest of the class!

The debates worked nicely because they required a working knowledge of the entire book, which some had and others didn't. It allowed many people to shine, especially those who are vocal in a different way. It also showed me who truly understood the book and who was not.

The only think I would really change was the time limitation. The material we covered could easily have fit into longer debates, but I didn't want to stretch this too much.