

The Highwayman

March 26, 2013

Today, I got to teach the students a very difficult poem, “The Highwayman.” We, of course, first had to discuss narrative poems so they would understand the basic form of the main poem. I read them an example using a children’s book, something they really like. I love using that approach because they sit with apt attention and listen. We discussed the finer parts of the plot, and also what goes into making a narrative poem.

Next, I divided them into groups so that they could read the difficult poem alone and try to make sense of it. They worked together in groups that were meticulously created so the higher level kids could help the lower level kids. It was a great chance for me to walk around and interact with the student. I got to know a few of them more, which was great. I like getting to talk to them and see how their minds work things out – especially because it forces them to use their energy in a positive way.

Finally, I showed the kids a puppet show version of “The Highwayman,” which helped with understanding of them. Many of them really seemed to like it, and it helped them with understanding the text. A lot of these students really need visuals to help them, so I plan on using them quite frequently. I think the lesson went really well all around – I’m proud of this one!