Teaching the Selected Works of Walter Dean Myers

Connie S. Zitlow

Teaching the Selected Works of Walter Dean Myers offers ideas for teaching Myers that connect middle and high school students with his powerful novels. Beginning with Myers’ first book, Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff, and continuing on to his award-winning Monster and the poetic Street Love, it highlights how his rich imagery, ear for dialogue, and explorations with language and form attract students to the unique and universal aspects of his memorable characters. It even presents a unit on war with Fallen Angels as the central work.

Teaching the Selected Works of Walter Dean Myers includes instructional activities, examples of students’ work, and informal and formal assessments that can be taken directly into classrooms for use with Myers’ novels and his poetry. With all this, an extensive bibliography of Myers’ works and resources for teaching them, useful background information on the author’s own life, and a wide repertoire of classroom ideas, Teaching the Selected Works of Walter Dean Myers is an ideal way to help inspire secondary readers with the dynamic artistry behind his writing.

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Teaching the Selected Works of Katherine Paterson

Lois Thomas Stover

Teaching the Selected Works of Katherine Paterson introduces you to Paterson’s body of work then takes you into middle and high school classrooms to see specific ways of teaching Bridge to Terabithia and other Paterson classics, presenting:

■ proven-effective instructional applications
■ teaching strategies that support comprehension and analysis
■ classroom activities that help students respond to what they’ve read
■ advice for dealing with the challenging issues that some of Paterson’s novels raise
■ examples of student discussions and samples of completed student work.

The book describes a variety of situations in which to use Paterson’s work, including:

■ increasing student choice and voice through literature circles
■ teaching a historical fiction unit with Paterson’s novels
■ encouraging boys’ literacy through out-of-school book groups.

Additional online resources include a biography of Paterson, suggestions for guided-listening activities, helpful forms, and other examples of student work.

If you’re looking for teaching strategies for using Katherine Paterson’s texts in your classroom you’ll find a variety of ways to succeed in bringing this widely recognized master of young adult literature to your students.

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Whether you’re teaching *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* for the first time, or whether your class is following the unfolding saga of the Logan family, *Teaching the Selected Works of Mildred D. Taylor* will help make the most of your students’ experience with this popular and award-winning young adult novelist.

Robert Cormier’s works are read and enjoyed by countless young adults. He is widely considered the most important young adult novelist, a creator of fully realized, memorable characters whose worlds reflect the issues and thought-provoking themes important to everyone, but especially adolescents. In *Teaching the Selected Works of Robert Cormier* noted young adult literature advocate and teacher Virginia Monseau helps you bring the works of this masterful writer into your classroom.