

Amanda McCristal

Subject: English

Instructional Strategy: Choral reading, Readers Theater

Type of text: Poem

Original text: Swimming

Out of the water
The air is warm
In the water
So there you are

My new place
Between the lines
Something good
It's my life

Form two lines
Side by side
Try your best
Now is the time

See the water
A long way to go
I hear the waves
Until the end

This choral reading would be a great start to the school year on getting to know your students and their backgrounds. I would assign a poetry project like this one to get to know each of my students. This beginning poem would be used to identify my personal interests outside of school, while relating to literacy and fluency in reading. By having the students read the poem out loud, they are building on common phrases that influence articulation and fluency in reading, while learning about each of their classmates. While relating to Ch.7 in "Best Practices in Literacy Instruction" (Morrow & Gambrell, 2011), interest is one key in motivating students to read. Pertaining to the interest of the learner is one way to dedicate your students to reading at an "intrinsic level." Teachers support must come into play when trying to establish dedication to reading among students. "Vital to the classroom is the quality of teacher-student relationships. When teachers emphasize positive interpersonal relationships, student motivation increases (Morrow & Gambrell, 181). Using a poetry unit is a great way to develop those interpersonal relationships that motivate students to continue reading and developing fluency. While relating to sports or some kind of hobby outside of school, this beginning poem would help my secondary students know that I have a life too, and how I am interested in getting to know theirs.