

Lesson Plan #4 – “Playing Around”

Goal: The goal for this lesson is to generate opportunities for creative and playful expression. As well, the goal is to introduce students to basic principles of word and language analysis by demonstrating how to break a word up into different part in order to discern meaning.

Objectives: For this lesson students will:

- Play around with the sounds of the words
- Experiment with creative uses of the sounds, rhythms and meaning of the words
- Identify rhyming qualities
- Identify the rhythms/syllables of words

Lesson Procedure:

Each student is to partner with another student. For this assignment each student is to attempt to define her partner’s word without looking up the definition. The objective of this lesson is to get the students to play with language by trying out the Meta-threads word in sentences. After a few minutes of playing around with the word the teacher will stop the activity and briefly introduce a mini-lesson on root words, prefixes and suffixes. The students will then return to trying to deduce the meaning of their partner’s word with this new breakdown strategy. Again, allow only a few minutes of play. After a few minutes of play the partners will reveal the actual meaning of their word. The partners will write down the definition and the sample sentence and then they are to compose their own original sentences using the word.

The goal of this lesson is to encourage students to play and experiment with new language. It will allow to creatively play around with the sound and rhythm of the Meta-threads words. As well, this lesson provides an opportunity for the teacher to introduce a breakdown strategy. Through exposure to lessons about breaking down words by root, prefix and suffix the students will be learning deductive reasoning strategies. This way of thinking is transferable and applicable beyond simply word definitions.

The more often a class engages in this type of creative language play, and the more often they are exposed to deductive strategizing and allowed to apply the strategies, the more this habit of thinking will sink in. This lesson is designed to foster language exploration and deductive reasoning.