

Motivation is Marvelous: Engaging Strategies for Adolescent Readers

WHAT DOES RESEARCH SAY?

- Throughout the adolescent years, “Motivation in learning grows in importance, but it challenges us all as we try to locate the key to unlocking it” (Frey & Fisher, 2010).
- Frey and Fisher suggest, “We need to create meaningful tasks that are tailored to the developmental, academic, and social need of students” (2010).
- Researchers and teachers alike have used terms such as, “Alliterate, alienated, marginalized, reluctant, not readers, struggling, and resistant” (Lenters, 2006).
- According to Metsala, Sweet, and Guthrie, “Intrinsic motivations appear to be imperative to lifelong, voluntary reading” (1996).

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES FOR ADOLESCENTS

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| • Challenging activities | • Interests/Choice |
| • Appropriate grouping | • Meaningful tasks |
| • Social interactions | • Purpose for reading |
| • Necessary support | • Collaboration |
| • Necessary scaffolding | • Classroom community |
| • Encouragement | • Classroom cultures |
| • Respect for students' personal identities | • Respect for out-of-school literacies |

RESEARCHERS TO NOTE

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PECHA-KUCHA: SUMMARIZING ACTIVITY

Materials: Planning Sheet and

Pre-Timed PowerPoint (20x20)

How to use: All Contents

Time Required: 6 min. 40 sec.

Video Link: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5x5FB2mxvZY

What is Pecha-Kutchu?

According to the University of Southern Mississippi Speaking Center, "This is the Japanese word for conversation or 'chit chat.' Created by two architects in Tokyo who were tired of dreadful PowerPoint presentations,

Pecha-Kucha is designed to force speakers to prepare shorter, more creative, and more polished PowerPoint presentations. More importantly, designing a Pecha-Kucha presentation motivates speakers to think about their subjects in different ways" (Atkins-Sayre).

Notes:

"The more you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go." -Dr. Seuss

STICKY NOTE ACTIVITY

Materials: Sticky Notes

How to use: All Contents

Time Required: 10-15 min.

Instructional

Procedures:

1. Have students form a large circle as a group.
2. Distribute a sticky note to each student. (Pre-written or student choice)
3. Ask each student to place their sticky note on the forehead of the person to their right in the circle.
4. Players should move around the room to ask yes/no questions to guess their sticky note.
5. Players continue until they have successfully guessed or time runs out.

GUMMY BEARS: STORY-TELLING ACTIVITY

Materials: Gummy Bears

How to use: Literacy

Time Required: 30+ Minutes

Instructional Procedures:

1. Teacher leads class inquiry discussion to determine the story elements (Setting, Character, Plot, Conflict, Theme).
2. Students volunteer information to contribute to the creation of the story.

3. Students receive the gummies during their sharing turn.

Notes:

CREATE-A-STORY: PROP ACTIVITY

Materials: Assortment of

Objects or Props (3 per

group/3-5 people)

Time Required: 10-15 min.

How to use: Literacy

Instructional Procedures:

1. Teacher displays a variety of objects or props.
2. Teacher separates class into groups of 3-5 students.
3. Group members select

three objects for the activity.

4. As a group, students create their own story using only the props they chose.
5. Students share with the whole group.

Notes: