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Young Adult Fantasy Literature

Young Adult Literature often contains several different types and those types have varieties of forms and genres such as adventure, chick literature, classics, contemporary fictions, etc. It includes, what seems to be really interesting to students, is fantasy fiction. Who doesn’t love fantasy stories? Students, especially in middle school and high school, find themselves hooked into fantasy stories because it’s amazing and it doesn’t exist. Generally speaking, children will love to see and discover more about things that they consider supernatural, and cool. They will grow the thoughts that magic can happen which makes their lives much more colorful and meaningful. When it comes to fiction, no one won’t rufes to know the stories of the “night creatures.” The creatures that go hunt at night and hide themselves during the day. The creatures that might look scary to children but they still love them because they have supernatural power to do what they want. Based on the oldest fiction story *Dracula,* L.J. Smith created something bigger, better named Vampire Diaries series of novels. This can be one of the best Young Adult novels to teach students in the future because this story itself contains meaningful themes and powerful messages that readers can learn from it.

The purpose to teach students with fiction stories is to help them develop their imagination and to help them see the magical side of this world. Also, students will appreciate the ideas of reading fiction novels which gives them an opportunity to see the world with brighter, different colors. Fantasy literature provides students with an opportunity to see that literature isn’t just focusing on boring texts about history, it contains the whole different fantastic side that yet to be discovered. Students will look at the world with a new different perspective. According to Michael Scott, an author of a famous fantasy book named *The Warlock,* he said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.” It is true when he compares the two elements of an imagination versus knowledge. Knowledge only stops young readers right at where they know, but imagination can lead them a lot further, doesn’t have to be right, but better off a limitation.

*The Diaries of Vampires* by L. J. Smith opens the whole new different world where extraordinary creatures like vampires, as people never think they are real, actually exist. Vampires are only known as an ancient creature who happen to be proper originated during the seventeenth and eighteenth of century from Eastern Europe region. This novel will have the readers on a ride of terror and fear, will have them on the edge of the seats while readings through the texts. Textual styles drives readers from places to places where horror keeps happening one after another. It creeps readers out through the wonderful textual choice the author uses, with a terrifying imagination that readers get from reading. None of this could happen elsewhere except in fantasy literature. It’s mysterious and attracts readers the most.

Vampire literature/novel is always an interesting subject for me since I was a little kid. My middle school literature teachers have taught me about the legend creatures like vampires and werewolves, and it follows me ever since. Vampire novel gives readers so many unexpected thoughts that a bad vampire who goes around draining out blood from innocent people can actually become a good vampire. Readers will be surprised throughout the novel based on the fact that love does exist during the fantasy world. A witch used to be always bad by default, L. J. Smith changes the readers’ thoughts all because the witches she creates in her novel are actually the best out of all other creatures. Witches have so many powerful abilities to do things that a normal person is always wish to be able to do. Young adult readers will somehow develop their mind to see things different, it leads them to later think that they can do something good to change the bad with or without power. Friendship in this novel is also a great tool to teach students to appreciate, to always help friends who in need, and stay by their sides always no matter how bad the situation gets. With friends, kids will together go through struggles with each other’s help.

Not only the good side and the bad side of these creatures that have been mentioned, family/bloodline members are something young readers actually can learn from reading this. When one’s loved one gets hurt, that person will definitely try his/her best to protect and make sure that his/her family will be safe. Young readers will get the ideas of sacrifice is the most important to do for family. Family is like a root of a tree, and one person in a family is like one of the branches on the tree. The tree will be damaged in one way or another if the root is not being protected.

There are thousands of novels are written based on fantasy. A second fantasy reading called *Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban* by J. K. Rowling is one of the most famous ones in the world. This is a great choice for students to read to compare about the friendship between friends, the similarities as well as the differences in both fantasy world and reality world. With both worlds, we all have the same things as students who go to school to get education, knowledge, and there are wonderful teachers who provided knowledge. Young readers will get the ideas that no matter which world they live in, they still need education to better themselves, to have a brighter future and help the community. Young readers are smart, and they learn quick through the great methods of teaching.

To achieve the best result when teach, teachers need to provide a list of vocabulary based on the specific chapters prior the day of reading the novel. Students need to go home and use an actually dictionary to look up the words, rewrite the meaning of the words from the dictionary, and compare with their classmates of what they found. Rewriting the words as well as the definitions helps students so much, especially effective with middle school and high school students. I was once going through the process of rewriting one out of all the new words like ten times, it helps students remember the words longer. An old-fashioned way to have students learn vocabulary by rewrite a word for a certain number of times, then have the sticky notes with words on it around the rooms where they usually go like bathroom, study room, kitchen room, living room. They will see the notes, will have to look at the words, and that can be another way to help students to learn.

As a teacher, reading this novel with an emotional tone would definitely help students imagine and see the image clearer. The texts can be somewhat difficult, that’s why having a provided sheets of new vocabulary would absolutely help students. One way, students will learn more words that they don’t usually get from reading other normal type of literatures. In a different way, using those vocabulary will help them reading along thoroughly without skimming through words that they don’t understand. I am a student right now, so I know what is the best way to prepare students in the future before reading any novels. It doesn’t matter if a student was born in America, not everyone will understand all the words of English automatically after birth.

With reading novel, a best way to do is to have teachers read it once before letting the students have a chance to read. Teacher’s method is to make students form into four to five groups depends on the number of students, and assign them with a specific chapter/passages to read. Each student will have a chance to read the assigned passage, move on from one student to another until the novel is finished. Teachers will then assign students with either a topic to write an essay about, like homework. Some teachers might give out questions matching with the assigned chapter for each group, explain the questions before having the students discuss it within the group. After a certain amount of time, teachers will ask them to share what they’ve discussed and will make comments/give grades for each group. The fantasy novel can be somewhat be harder to understand if a student reads it alone himself/herself. It’s a better teaching method to have students working together on the novel, and it also increases their communication skills as well as their confidences.

These following novels are considered useful to teach in middle schools and high schools. The more interesting the novels, the greater chance students will put more effort into it. Fantasy novels such as *Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard, *Fallen* by Lauren Kate, *Six of Crows* by Leigh Bardugo, *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, *City of Bone* by Cassandra Clare, *A Reaper at Gates* by Sabaa Tahir, *City of Ashes* by cassandra Clare, *City of Glass* by Cassandra Clare, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* by J. K. Rowling, *Angelfall* by Susan Ee, etc, are suggested to be the best option for young adult readers.

Work Cited

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