

Cubing Strategy for *My Antonia*

New York, NY Bantam Books 1994

Purpose

This strategy stimulates ideas and justification for those ideas by having students look at one subject through several perspectives. These six ideas parallel Bloom's taxonomy of comprehension levels.

Rationale

This activity should be done the day after the students finish the book. The ending of the book will generate some interesting ideas about love, and Cubing will generate additional ideas in order to write a one-page essay on "Love in *My Antonia*."

Directions

- Construct cube from laminated paper pattern, or cover Kleenex box with appropriate Attribute blocks (Describe it, Compare it, Analyze it, Associate it, Apply it, Argue for/against it).
- Choose a topic, in this case "Love"
- Distribute handouts (see example)
- Display example:
 1. Describe it: It looks like a heart.
 2. Compare it: It is better than ice cream.
 3. Associate it: (What does it make you think of?) Love makes me think of a summer night.
 4. Analyze it: (What are its parts and how do they fit together?) There are two people and they care more about the other person than themselves.
 5. Apply it: (How can it be used?) Love can make peace on this earth.
 5. Argue for/against it: (Why is it important?) Without love we would not be able to understand each other.
- Throw the cube around the room, or have students come up and roll it.
- Have student respond appropriately to whatever the cube says, after they respond have them write down on their handout.
- Throw or roll until all sides as been addressed.
- Have students complete the handout on their own.

Assessment

Expand this strategy into an essay on "Love in *My Antonia*."

Cubing Topic: Love

Directions

Fill in the blanks with your own opinion.

1. Describe it: It looks like a _____

2. Compare it: It is _____

3. Associate it: (What does it make you think of?) _____

4. Analyze it: (What are its parts and how do they fit together?) _____

5. Apply it: (How can it be used?) _____

6. Argue for/against it: (Why is it important?) _____

Cubing Strategy Example for *My Ántonia*

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Cubing Topic: Love

3. Describe it: It looks like a heart.
2. Compare it: It is better than ice cream.
3. Associate it: (What does it make you think of?) Love makes me think of a summer night.
4. Analyze it: (What are its parts and how do they fit together?) There are two people and they care more about each other than they do about themselves.
5. Apply it: (How can it be used?) Love can make peace on this earth.
6. Argue for/against it: (Why is it important?) Without love we would not be able to understand each other.