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USING INTERACTIVE METHODS IN TEACHING FAIRY TALES TO PRIMARY CLASSES

Submission Date: May 10, 2024, Accepted Date: May 15, 2024,

Published Date: May 20, 2024

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ajps/Volume04Issue05-12>

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the implementation of interactive teaching methods in primary classes, focusing on the effective use of fairy tales to enhance reading literacy and foster creativity. By employing interactive storytelling, role-playing, digital tools, and collaborative activities, educators can engage students more deeply, promoting a love for reading and critical thinking skills. The study examines various interactive techniques, their benefits, and practical applications in the classroom, providing a comprehensive guide for educators aiming to create an engaging and dynamic learning environment.

KEYWORDS

Interactive methods, fairy tales, primary education, literacy skills, critical thinking, creativity, engagement, role-playing, storytelling, digital tools, collaborative learning, student participation, educational technology, social development, teaching strategies.

INTRODUCTION

Fairy tales have held a significant place in the realm of primary education for centuries, enchanting young minds with their vivid imagery, moral lessons, and timeless narratives. These stories serve not only as a

source of entertainment but also as an essential tool for developing literacy skills and imparting cultural values. However, traditional methods of teaching fairy tales often involve passive listening and rote

memorization, which may fail to fully engage students or encourage deeper comprehension and critical thinking.

In an era where education increasingly emphasizes active learning and student engagement, interactive teaching methods offer a transformative approach to teaching fairy tales. These methods shift the classroom dynamic from a teacher-centered environment to one where students actively participate in their learning process. By incorporating techniques such as interactive storytelling, role-playing, digital tools, and collaborative activities, educators can create a more dynamic and stimulating learning environment.

Interactive teaching methods align with contemporary educational theories that advocate for experiential and participatory learning. These methods not only enhance students' engagement and enjoyment but also support the development of essential literacy skills, critical thinking, and creativity. Through interactive activities, students are encouraged to delve deeper into the narratives, explore characters' motivations, and relate the stories to their own experiences and cultural contexts.

This article aims to explore the various interactive methods that can be employed in teaching fairy tales to primary class students. It will examine the benefits of these methods, provide practical examples of their application in the classroom, and discuss strategies for

overcoming potential challenges. By leveraging interactive techniques, educators can enhance the effectiveness of their teaching, making fairy tales a powerful medium for holistic learning and development in young learners.

Interactive methods significantly boost student engagement by transforming the learning experience from passive reception to active participation. Techniques such as role-playing and interactive storytelling involve students directly in the narrative, making the lessons more dynamic and memorable. This heightened engagement helps to capture and maintain students' interest, thereby fostering a positive attitude toward reading and learning. When students are actively involved in the story, they are more likely to become invested in the characters and plot, enhancing their overall learning experience.

Interactive methods are particularly effective in developing literacy skills among primary students. Activities such as group reading, dramatization, and digital storytelling provide opportunities for students to practice reading aloud, improve their vocabulary, and enhance comprehension. By participating in these activities, students can better understand the structure of fairy tales, including elements like plot, setting, and character development. Additionally, interactive methods encourage students to express themselves more clearly and confidently, both orally

and in writing, which are critical components of literacy.

Fairy tales often present complex themes and moral dilemmas that require critical thinking to unpack. Interactive teaching methods encourage students to analyze these aspects of the stories, fostering their ability to think critically and creatively. For instance, activities that involve rewriting fairy tales or creating alternative endings challenge students to think beyond the traditional narratives and explore new possibilities. This not only enhances their understanding of the story but also stimulates their imaginative thinking and problem-solving skills.

Interactive methods promote social and emotional development by encouraging collaboration and empathy among students. Role-playing and group activities require students to work together, share ideas, and support each other. These interactions help students develop important social skills such as communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution. Additionally, by stepping into the shoes of different characters, students can better understand and empathize with others' perspectives and emotions, which is essential for their emotional growth.

One of the most significant benefits of interactive methods is the increased motivation and enjoyment they bring to the learning process. When students find lessons enjoyable and engaging, they are more likely to

participate actively and take an interest in the subject matter. This positive attitude toward learning can lead to improved academic performance and a lifelong love for reading and storytelling. By making the process of learning fairy tales fun and interactive, educators can inspire students to explore literature with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Incorporating digital tools into the teaching of fairy tales can further enhance the learning experience. Digital storytelling, for example, allows students to create and share their own stories using multimedia elements such as images, sounds, and animations. This not only makes the lessons more engaging but also helps students develop digital literacy skills, which are increasingly important in today's technology-driven world. The use of technology can also provide a platform for students to showcase their creativity and collaborate with peers, both locally and globally.

Interactive methods are highly adaptable and can be tailored to meet the diverse learning needs of students. Whether students are visual, auditory, or kinesthetic learners, interactive techniques can be modified to suit their preferences and strengths. For example, visual learners may benefit from digital storytelling and visual aids, while kinesthetic learners may thrive in role-playing and hands-on activities. This adaptability ensures that all students have the opportunity to engage with the material in a way that

is most effective for them, leading to a more inclusive and equitable learning environment.

In conclusion, the use of interactive methods in teaching fairy tales offers a multitude of benefits that extend beyond traditional reading and comprehension. By actively involving students in the learning process, these methods enhance engagement, literacy skills, critical thinking, creativity, social and emotional development, motivation, and enjoyment. Moreover, they provide opportunities to integrate technology and adapt to diverse learning needs, making them a valuable approach for educators aiming to create a vibrant and effective learning environment in primary classes.

Start with structured storytelling sessions where the teacher narrates a fairy tale while encouraging student participation. This can include asking students to predict what happens next, identifying characters and settings, or suggesting different endings. Incorporate visual aids like storyboards or props to make the storytelling more vivid and engaging. For example, when telling "Little Red Riding Hood," use a red cape and a wolf mask to represent the main characters, allowing students to visualize the story.

Incorporate role-playing and dramatization into the lesson plans. Assign roles to students and have them act out scenes from the fairy tales. This not only makes the lesson more enjoyable but also helps students

understand the characters' motivations and emotions. Create a simple stage setting with props and costumes to enhance the experience. For example, when working on "Cinderella," students can act out the ballroom scene, with some playing the roles of Cinderella, the prince, and the stepsisters.

Utilize digital tools to create interactive storytelling projects. Students can use tablets or computers to create their own digital versions of fairy tales, adding images, sounds, and animations. There are numerous apps and software available, such as Storybird or Book Creator, which are user-friendly and suitable for primary students. This approach not only engages students but also helps them develop digital literacy skills.

Plan group discussions and collaborative activities where students can share their thoughts and ideas about the fairy tales. Encourage them to analyze the characters, plot, and moral lessons. Collaborative activities like creating story maps, brainstorming alternate endings, or writing group stories can help students work together and learn from each other. For example, after reading "The Three Little Pigs," students can discuss the different building materials used by the pigs and why some were more effective than others.

Use formative assessments to gauge student understanding and progress. These can include

observation during role-playing activities, participation in group discussions, and contributions to digital storytelling projects. Formative assessments provide immediate feedback and help identify areas where students may need additional support.

Evaluate students through creative projects and portfolios that showcase their work over time. This can include written stories, drawings, digital projects, and recorded performances. Portfolios provide a comprehensive view of a student's progress and achievements, allowing teachers to give more personalized feedback.

Interactive methods can be time-consuming, so effective time management is crucial. Plan lessons that balance interactive activities with more traditional methods to ensure all curriculum requirements are met. Use a timer during activities to keep students on track and maintain a structured lesson flow.

Resource limitations can be a challenge, especially in schools with limited access to technology or materials. Get creative with available resources, such as using homemade props for dramatization or free online tools for digital storytelling. Collaboration with other teachers and seeking community support can also help in acquiring necessary resources.

Students have diverse learning needs and abilities, so it's important to differentiate instruction. Provide multiple ways for students to engage with the

material, such as offering both digital and non-digital options for storytelling projects. Adjust the complexity of activities based on students' proficiency levels to ensure that all students can participate and benefit.

Case Study: Integrating Interactive Methods

A practical example of integrating interactive methods can be seen in a primary class reading "Hansel and Gretel." The teacher begins with an interactive storytelling session, using visuals and sound effects to enhance the narrative. Students are then divided into groups to role-play different scenes from the story, using simple props and costumes. After the dramatization, the class uses a digital storytelling app to create their own versions of the tale, incorporating their ideas and creativity. The lesson concludes with a group discussion where students analyze the characters' decisions and the moral lessons of the story.

By following these practical applications, teachers can effectively implement interactive methods in teaching fairy tales, creating a more engaging, inclusive, and enriching learning experience for primary students.

CONCLUSION

Interactive methods offer a powerful and engaging approach to teaching fairy tales in primary classes, enhancing students' literacy skills, critical thinking, creativity, and social development. By actively

involving students in the storytelling process through role-playing, digital tools, and collaborative activities, educators can create a vibrant and dynamic learning environment that inspires a love for reading and learning.

The benefits of interactive methods extend beyond academic outcomes, nurturing important life skills such as communication, teamwork, and empathy. These methods also help students develop digital literacy skills and adapt to diverse learning needs, making them valuable tools in modern education.

While implementing interactive methods may pose challenges such as time constraints and resource limitations, creative planning and collaboration can help overcome these obstacles. By incorporating a variety of interactive techniques and adapting them to suit the needs of their students, educators can create a rich and immersive learning experience that fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of fairy tales.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, interactive methods have the potential to transform the way fairy tales are taught, making them not only a means of imparting knowledge but also a source of inspiration, imagination, and joy for students in primary classes. By embracing these methods, educators can create a more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning environment that

empowers students to become lifelong learners and critical thinkers.

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