

“Laugh and Learn with Cartooning”

Investigating
Innovation
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Creative Strategy:

CARTOONING: The purpose of using cartooning in education is to promote figural creativity, expression of ideas in a visual format, using humor, and increasing students' engagement for a given task.

Context:

The activity is planned for gifted middle school language arts students, but could be adapted for any grade level and school subject.

Activity:

Whole Group: Read the story of The Frog Princess by Stuart Baum to the whole class by the end of the first part and leave the story incomplete for the activity.

Group Study: Divide the students into small groups of 4 give and follow the procedure:

- Provide students four pieces of paper and pencils for each group.
- Ask students to discuss the story and a creative ending for the rest of the story.
- Ask students individually to draw a cartoon about the ending and order the four pieces to make a single meaningful ending for the story
- Encourage students to use humor and play with analogies and adding a creative caption for each part.

Follow up: Have students share their stories and show the cartoons to the whole class. Discuss any symbols, irony, or analogy used in the cartoons.

Adaptations:

- Instead of drawing, you can use editorial cartoons for a subject and analyze and discuss them with students.
- You can use larger group settings and ask students to combine their cartoons to create different stories.
- You can use online cartooning and photo edition tools to create a cartoon or just ask students to write a caption for a given cartoon.
- Collages can also be used for cartooning.

Materials:

- The Frog Princess by Stuart Baum
<http://www.stuartstories.com/activities/frogprincess.html>
- Pencils either black or colored
- Small papers for drawing (You can cut a paper to four pieces for each group)

Resources:

Websites:

<http://caartoonfactory.net/>

<http://conceptcartoons.com/science.html>

<http://712educators.about.com/cs/edcartoons/a/edcartoons.htm>

Books:

Naylor, S., & Keogh, B. (2005). Concept cartoons in science education. Millgate House.

