

“Teach Back”: Student Led Facilitation of a Short Story

ENGL 203H Carmona

You and your partners (a group of 3 to 4 students) will facilitate a 55-minute class on a short story of your choice (see page 3 for the list of short stories). The “teach backs” will begin on Class 3 Week of May 2, 2016. These “teach backs” have two components:

I. Facilitating Component (Individual and Group Grade)

These are not presentations, but interactive discussions and activities that will make it interesting for your peers. The goal is to generate a meaningful, text-focused discussion and lesson to demonstrate your expertise of the short story. You (as facilitators) will be required to do the following:

- Write on the board
- Ask interpretive (open-ended) and follow-up questions (5-7) to generate a thoughtful and rich discussion
- Choose 3-4 significant passages to discuss in class
- Create at least 1 activity to “open up” the short story and help the class better comprehend its meaning(s) (examples: “Take and Relate”, “Socratic Seminar”, “connection to visual art/music”, “rapid fire”, “draw”, etc.)

II. Written Component: Lesson Plan (Shared group grade)

On the day of your facilitation, each group will submit a typed copy of a lesson plan that will provide a clear overview of the “teach back”. One copy will be submitted to me before you begin (so make multiple copies if you want to refer to them during class).

The lesson plan should include:

1. **2-3 specific learning objectives** (Goals or SWBAT: students will be able to) for the lesson and a **projected timeline (agenda) for your class** (plan a 50-55 minute class – you will start immediately after the 5 min. free-write)
2. **5-7 Interpretive questions** your group will pose during class discussion (5 -7 open-ended questions, not answered by “yes/no”)
3. **A selection of 3 -4 key passages** you plan to discuss and the points you want to cover/make sure are covered in discussion
4. **At least 1 Activity** and an explanation for the activity – what is the purpose of the activity?
5. **A meaningful closure to the lesson** (might be a question, looking at the last lines of the short story - your call BUT THINK OF A WAY TO END YOUR FACILITATION)

❖ Post-Facilitation Reflection – due following class after the “teach back” (printed)

As teachers, it’s important to reflect on the success of your lesson. After the lesson, each facilitator will write 1 paragraph reflecting, commenting and assessing his/her individual facilitation and the lesson as a whole. Questions to consider:

- What worked well? What was successful? What were the highlights?
- What needed readjustment? Re-thinking? What deserves further exploration?
- What was challenging? What would you do differently?
- What did you learn?

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❖ **Non-facilitator participation grade: (individual grade)**

On the days you are NOT a facilitator, I will be assessing your participation based on the following:

I = particularly insightful comment

Q = using a quote to make a point

C = making a significant connection

? = asking an important/relevant question

R = responding to peer commentary in discussion

T = tardy for class

NS = no short story

D = distracting behavior; talking when someone else is, getting out of seat, phone goes off, surfing the web on your iPad instead of following discussion

You all start with a blank slate grade of C+. From there, you can earn points by participating.

Ex. Being quiet for an entire class = C+ for the day.

List of Short Stories for “Teach Back”
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1. Chimamanda Adichie – “One Cell” focuses on the out-of-control crime and the corrupt policing situation in Nigeria by telling the story of one (probably innocent) boy’s stay in jail.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2007/01/29/cell-one>

2. Isabel Allende – “Two Words” is the tale of Belisa Crepusculario, a beautiful young woman from a desperately poor background who makes a living selling words.

https://www.google.com/search?q=isabel+allende+short+story+pdf&oq=isabel+allende+short+story+pdf&aqs=chrome..69i57j4206j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=91&ie=UTF-8#q=two+words+isabel+allende

3. Isaac Asimov – “Robot Dreams” and “Visit to the World’s Fair of 1964”. “Robot Dreams” is a sci-fi short story revolving around the nature of the Laws of Robotics—what is a “human being”? Is it right to design an entire class of intelligent beings just to be slaves? Susan Calvin is disturbed by a robot’s dreaming—and by the dreams. In the essay “Visits to the World’s Fair of 1964”, Asimov, in 1964, imagines what the World Fair would look like in 2014 – his future, our present.

“Robot Dreams” is uploaded as a pdf. in the files section

<https://www.nytimes.com/books/97/03/23/lifetimes/asi-v-fair.html>

4. Katherine Boo – “Opening Night” is an article written in 2009. Boo — an investigative journalist writing for the New Yorker — trailed Sunil, a young scrap metal collector, as he thieved his way through the Mumbai airport and five-star hotels in the vicinity, on the opening night of the film *Slumdog Millionaire*.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2009/02/23/opening-night-3>

5. Jorge Luis Borges – “The Library of Babel” describes a library that houses every book that has ever been written and every book that has never been written: an edifice of possibilities, “composed of an indefinite and perhaps infinite number of hexagonal galleries.”

<http://www.arts.ucsb.edu/faculty/reese/classes/artistsbooks/The%20Library%20of%20Babel.pdf>

6. Raymond Carver – “Cathedral” opens with an irritated and sometimes hostile narrator whose wife has invited a blind friend to spend the night.

http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic84562.files/Required_readings/cathedral.pdf

7. Ray Bradbury’s - “Veldt” is about George and Lydia who have it all and give their children everything, specifically a nursery that can be anything the kids desire.

http://www.d.umn.edu/~csigler/PDF_files/bradbury_veldt.pdf

8. Jhumpa Lahiri – “Interpreter of Maladies” is the story of an Indian tour guide named Mr. Kapasi and his encounter with the Indian-American Das family.

<http://pascack.k12.nj.us/cms/lib5/NJ01000238/Centricity/Domain/98/Interpreter%20of%20Maladies.pdf>

9. **Gabriel Garcia Marquez – “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings”** is about when Pelayo discovers an old man with large, weathered wings stuck in the mud.

<http://jaimebell.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/51426730/A%20very%20old%20man%20with%20enormous%20wings.pdf>

10. **Haruki Murakami**

“Samsa in Love” is inspired by Franz Kafka’s novella *The Metamorphosis*, a story about a man named Gregory Samsa who wakes up to find himself turned into a beetle. In Murakami’s story, Gregory Samsa, a beetle, wakes up to find himself turned into a human being.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2013/10/28/samsa-in-love>

OR

“The Year of Spaghetti” and “On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning”. “Spaghetti” is about a man who fixes himself spaghetti every day for a year and refuses to help out the ex-girlfriend of a friend when she calls. “100% Perfect Girl” is about seeing a boy or girl you thought was perfect. What did you do?

<https://9thgradecc.wikispaces.com/file/view/the+year+of+spaghetti.pdf>

<http://www.spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk/media/Haruki%20Murakami.pdf>

11. **E.C. Osondu – “Waiting”** is about children in an African refugee camp who spend their days waiting for one thing or the other, and keep waiting, waiting, then waiting.

http://www.caineprize.com/pdf/2009_Osondu.pdf

12. **George Saunders – “The Semplica-Girl Diaries”** deals with a family in a not-too distant future (or perhaps an alternate present or past?) that is struggling to keep up with the Joneses—which, in this society, means leasing some unusual garden ornaments.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2012/10/15/the-semplica-girl-diaries>

13. **ZZ Packer – “Brownies”** is about a Brownie troop of fourth-grade African American girls from suburban Atlanta, Georgia, who go to summer camp. At the camp, they encounter a troop of white girls and believe that one of the white girls addressed them with a racial insult. The African American girls resolve to beat up the white girls.

http://www.qcounty.com/SCC/Fall10/Eng2_80232/Readings/ZZPacker--Brownies.pdf

14. **Amy Tan – “Two Kinds”** tells of a Chinese mother and daughter expecting a great life in America and the effects of a mother’s high expectations for her daughter’s life.

<https://olsen-classpage.wikispaces.com/file/view/TwoKindsfulltext.pdf>

15. **Roald Dahl – “Lamb to the Slaughter”** is a horror story about a devoted and loving wife, Mary Maloney. Patrick, Mary’s husband, decides to leave Mary, and Mary seeks revenge.

<https://olsen-classpage.wikispaces.com/file/view/TwoKindsfulltext.pdf>

