

Title: *Folklife in Text vs. Folklife in Students' Communities: Superstitions, Beliefs, and Customs Practiced*

Grade Level: High School, Ninth Grade

Curriculum Areas: Literature, Social Studies

Purpose / Objective:

Upon completion of this lesson, the students should be able to do the following:

1. Discuss superstitions, beliefs, and customs practiced in their community in regards to the death of a friend or loved one.
2. Compare the superstitions and beliefs in their community with those in the novel.
3. Write in expository mode the similarities and differences between these two systems of superstitions and beliefs.

Procedure / Activities:

1. Students will read *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson and discuss stages of the grieving process (denial, anger, coming to terms, and acceptance)
2. Teacher questions students about superstitions, beliefs, and customs practiced in their communities.
3. Teacher draws a chart comparing and contrasting superstitions, beliefs, and customs in the novel with those of students' communities.
4. Teacher discusses cremation in the novel and asks if this practice is common in students' communities.
5. Teacher records ideas and interpretations on poster board and discusses with students how their customs differ from those practiced in the novel.
6. Teacher and students discuss how cremation affects a service.
7. Students record the differences and similarities in customs and beliefs.
8. Students write in expository form the similarities and differences between the systems of beliefs and customs discussed.

Additional Activities:

1. Students interview grandparents about beliefs and customs practiced fifty to seventy years ago in regard to this theme, and write an essay discussing their findings.
2. Students write a paper discussing practices in rural areas versus practices in urban areas.

Time Required: 40 minutes

Materials:

1. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
2. Poster board
3. Markers

Additional References:

1. <http://www.terabithia.com>

Lesson Plan Provided By:

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