

Specific Journal #1: Curriculum Resources

1A. Five curriculum resources Mrs. Greer uses in her classroom are the smartboard, videos, novels, quest strategy packets, and weekly homework handouts. The smartboard is used for basically all instruction, while the whiteboard is only used for reminders and to write the objectives for the day up. She incorporates videos into her regular instruction for entertainment purposes, as well as to cater to different types of learning. Novels are used throughout the course for obvious purposes but, because of a change in supervisors, teachers are no longer allowed to teach full units on one novel anymore; they can only use portions as supplements, at least in middle school. Quest strategy packets are used to gauge students' progress concerning comprehension of texts. And weekly homework is used as another assessment of progress on a regular basis. I like the idea of weekly homework because you have everything you need at the start of the week. However, teachers also have to think about students being more prone to lose their packet and those that may forget to complete it.

1B. I genuinely think each resource that Mrs. Greer has used thus far is appropriate for both the curriculum and the age group. My CT has been teaching for 18 years, so she's had a lot of time to see what does and doesn't work with each class. With the videos, we just have to make sure the videos aren't super long because students will get bored and tune out when certain activities take too long. The students could use more practice with poetry and abstract concepts, as well as nonfiction because they mostly focus on fiction. With that being said, my CT does a very good job

of basing her instruction off the SOL standards, instead of just incorporating them into her lesson plan after the fact.

1C. SOL 6.3 works well with the use of a smartboard and videos; it expects that students will understand the elements of media literacy when they complete sixth grade. They will compare and contrast different types of media in addition to crafting and publishing their own media messages to their peers. They actually worked on that during the Global Read Aloud and are currently doing so on their own PowerSchool accounts. SOLs 6.4-6.6 in the Reading strand work well with the novels and other various texts Mrs. Greer uses in her classroom. These strands have to do with vocabulary, different genres, and various types of text. These three standards also work well with the quest strategies and weekly homework because they deal with comprehension of writing passages. The quest strategies and homework also relate well to standards 6.9B and 6.9D, which deal with research. The comprehension questions also include open discussion questions, where they have to cite evidence for what they choose to say.