Using Common Core to Develop Activities for Short Stories
2016 Annual CATESOL Conference
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The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) provide a valuable framework to use when designing questions and activities for short stories. Often, IEP students have attended high school in their own countries and may not have been exposed to the same standards found in American schools. This could potentially put them at a disadvantage when they enter university in the United States. It is hoped that by applying the CCSS to IEP instruction the students will be better prepared for postsecondary academic work.

Standards used in this workshop:

Standards for English Language Arts

- Reading Standards for Literature: grades 9-10 and 11-12
- Writing Standards: grades 9-10 and 11-12 (connected to the Reading Standards, above)
- Language Standards: grades 9-10 and 11-12
- Reading Standards for Literature: grades 6-8 (useful for lower levels)

Recommended short stories:

- *An Upheaval* by Anton Chekhov
- *Popular Mechanics* by Raymond Carver
- *The Cask of Amontillado* by Edgar Allan Poe (original and simplified)
- *The Chaser* by John Collier
- *The Cop and the Anthem* by O. Henry (original and simplified)
- *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant
- *The Sniper* by Liam O’Flaherty
- *The Story of an Hour* by Kate Chopin
- *The Unicorn in the Garden* by James Thurber

Extension activities:

- Compare/contrast with film version
- Storyboards
- Graphic organizers
  - Mind maps and Venn diagrams
- Extended written analysis
  - Source, i.e. Poe’s *Cask*...
  - Historical context/significance, i.e. O’Flaherty’s *Sniper*
  - Social commentary, i.e. Chekhov’s *Upheaval*
- Presentations involving multimedia

Future development:

- Analysis and consideration of text complexity
- Incorporation of visual arts (paintings/sculpture)
- CCSS applied to poetry
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Related information:
News article describing lack of materials that fit with Common Core- focuses mainly on high school level:


TESOL’s own page for ELLs and Common Core:


Link to the Common Core State Standards website, which contains all of the standards and explanations:

- http://www.corestandards.org/