

Think.Discuss.Act

Podcast Paideia Seminar Plan

Big Idea: Time

Text: A Timbered Choir, by Wendell Berry

Ideas, Values: Time, Justice

Think

Big Ideas Chat:

How might we perceive time differently (age, season, mental space, etc.)? Think about an event from your past in which time seemed to pass at a different rate than what might be considered normal. Did time pass more slowly or more quickly? How do you know?

Read Aloud:

Read aloud the text while family, friends, colleagues, or classmates listen.

Vocabulary:

Check to see if there are any words that need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

Discuss

Pre-Process:

Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“Our discussion is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open-ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of the discussion is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

Describe what you want to accomplish.

Set a Goal.

* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Discussion Questions:

Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):

* + Which stanza is the most significant? Round robin.
  + Why? Anyone can share.

Core (Analyze textual details):

* + Why does Berry compare the flow of days to a stream in the first and second stanzas?
  + What is the hard justice of the universe Berry is speaking about in stanza six? Why is it described as “hard”?
  + Why does Berry compare our craving for fulfillment in time to a delayed completion of a rhyme?
  + How is Berry showing the cyclical nature of time through this poem? Point to a specific example.

Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):

* + How could acknowledging the cyclical nature of time in the universe impact our own lives and perception of time?

Post-Discussion Process:

* Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.
* Do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Act

Post-Discussion Action:

Transition to Action:

* + Review and discuss key ideas you heard, said, and thought of during the discussion.

Brainstorm:

* + Talk as a group about why we perceive time differently.
  + How might you find a responsible way to allow for more time to listen to yourself think? And craft a space for those around you to be able to think and listen.

Action:

* + Schedule a space in your work and home calendar to have a distraction free moment to think about your thinking and listen to yourself in a mindful and reflective way.

This Podcast Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

Name: Zach Pritz

Organization: Veritas Christian Academy & National Paideia Center

\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/a-timbered-choir/