

Picture Book Strategy

For

Nothing but the Truth by Avi

Picture Book: *Zoom* by Istvan Banyai

Reason I chose the book: Its theme of Point of View or Paradigm

(In *Nothing but the Truth*, there are many POV's and no one, within the novel, seems to see anybody else's paradigm.)

Writing activity:

Using the book *Zoom*, have students write down what they see on each page (describe each picture) [31 pictures], and then at the end of the book, have them write their thoughts about the book and how their idea of what the picture was changed from page to page, shifting their paradigm and what they thought.

The Lesson:

What does it mean to shift your paradigm? (shift your point of view to something that might be better or more accurate—getting out of your little bubble to see what is really going on)

Instructions:

Show the class each picture of the picture book, pausing after each one to allow the students to write what they see.

After reading the book aloud, allow the students a few minutes to write about how their POV, or paradigm, changed from picture to picture (how what they thought they saw changed as they looked at each picture)

Evaluation:

Then ask for volunteers to share their final paragraphs—having a group discussion about how sometimes one POV isn't always the right one, or how one POV can limit what we really see, or how one POV is much more specialized or detailed than another, but that often means missing the big picture.

Picture Book Strategy (Example of Student Paragraphs)

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(Typical answers)

P.1—It looks like one of those little kid drawings of what is on the moon or something like that.

P.2—Oh, it's a rooster's head.

P.3—It's a rooster standing on a fence and some kids are looking at it.

P.4—The kids are in some building while they're looking at the rooster.

P.5—The kids are in some kind of barn and they are on a farm with lots of farm animals.

P.6—It's a bigger view of the farm.

P.7—It's a toy farm and someone is playing with the miniature farm set.

P.8—A little girl is playing with the toys in a toy store.

P.9—The whole scene is a magazine that someone is holding.

10—A sleeping boy is holding the magazine.

11—This sleeping boy is sitting on a boat while he's holding the magazine.

12—He's by a pool with a lot of other people.

13—It's a really big boat—a ship.

14—The boat is a picture or something.

15—The boat is really just a billboard on a bus.

16—The bus is in a big city.

17—The bus is on TV?

18—Some old Indian guy is watching the bus on TV while he's in the desert.

19—He's all alone in the desert.

20—He's really just a stamp of the desert in Arizona.

21—Someone on an island is getting the letter mailed to him.

22—They are natives on an island, and the mailman is bringing them mail.

23—The mailman is getting back into his boat.

24—There's an airplane flying overhead of the island.

25—He's still flying.

26—There's a volcano on the island—but he's still flying, higher I think.

27—It was a small island, and the plane is flying to the clouds.

28—You can still see the plane—it's pretty much just a speck, but you can see the earth—it's covered in clouds.

29—It's half of the earth, swirled with clouds.

30—It's the whole earth, and it's pretty small.

31—It's just a small white speck in a whole bunch of blackness

Wow. That was crazy. I felt like once I really knew what the picture was like, it completely changed and I really had no idea what the picture was. I mean, I looked at the rooster thinking, oh, it's going to be a farm, and then it was really a ship and then it was a TV and a stamp. I felt like I could never really know what was going on in the picture. It was really unsettling.