INTEGRATION OF SONGS AND POETRY FOR EFFECTIVE INFORMATION RETENTION AMONG STUDENTS

by:
Rosalyn B. Angeles
Master Teacher I, Cabcaben Elementary School

Many children enjoy learning whenever they are interested in the topic being discussed. However, sometimes, there are some lessons that they may find boring or uninteresting that is why the teacher must know how to make teaching more creative and engaging. The teacher must never run out of ideas on how to make the learning environment lively. One of the ways to catch the interest of the students is to use some pedagogical tools such as songs and poetry.

According to Keith Schoch (2014), "students are most receptive to new learning when they can connect it to what they already know." Poetry provides a quick and fun way of activating prior knowledge. In addition, poetry has a potential for theme formulation, leading to an amazing write-up of reflection in journal or discussion. The students can also connect the poetry into their topic which makes it more effective for understanding the lesson.

Schoch also suggested that poetry can be used as a wonderful way for students to share information they learned through class or independent study. It can also bring life to otherwise dry and lifeless facts. The teacher may ask the students to create poetry out of major facts and information from a particular topic and through this activity, the retention of information would be very effective because the students are the ones who brainstorming about the facts and information and the ones who created a new interesting way of presenting these.

Meanwhile, Priya Garg (2017) claims that songs would also be very effective in teaching lessons to children because "songs can be used for a number of purposes and there are many reasons why songs can be considered a valuable pedagogical tool."
Songs can improve their pronunciation, listening and speaking skills and can also be useful tools in the learning of vocabulary, sentence structures, and sentence patterns. Hence, songs can also be an essential tool in the language development of the students.

Further, according to Oxford University Press (2011), "when you teach with songs, you be assured those songs will bounce around your students heads long after the class is over and the same can't be said for most other teaching tools." This shows that songs can be considered as a very effective tool for the retention of the lesson to the children because songs consist of rhymes and repetitions which can play back in children's mind over and over again.

Songs and poems have a long-term effect on the minds of the students. These tools can help in instilling information in which they can easily remember or review the lessons through these. Singing and poetry are enjoyable and create a light learning environment for the students, hence, less pressure and stress for them. These two are also great motivators and present a wide range of learning opportunities.

Using these two can provide a nice break for the students from the usual pattern in the teaching-learning process. It is because poems and songs have a relaxing effect and can actually be some sort of entertainment and at the same time, they are learning. Indeed, the learning process of the students does not have to be tedious because, with the creative and innovative mind of the teacher, a lifeless and dull discussion could turn into the lightsome learning environment.

References:

http://www.readingrockets.org/article/10-ways-use-poetry-your-classroom

https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/advantages-using-songs-priya-garg