

Research Project Outline

Research question: What is the value of teaching young adult immigrant literature in the classroom? Can it foster empathy for immigrant youth among domestic-born American students? How so?

Overview of young adult multi-cultural/immigrant literature

Hinton, KaaVonia and Dickinson, Gail K. Integrating Multicultural Young Adult Literature in Libraries and Classrooms in Secondary Schools.

“Three major approaches” to young adult literature: “to obtain literacy,” “as a mirror and/or window for all students,” and “to bring issues of race, gender, and class to the forefront”

“Multicultural literature can: 1. Instill pride and self-empowerment in readers 2. Be used as a weapon for fighting racism and other injustices 3. Help students look critically at the world 4. Encourage students to question past, present, and future realities 5. Pass on societal values 6. Promote empathy”

Gregg, Gail P. and Dyanne Knight. “Female Adolescent Immigrant Experiences in Young Adult Literature.”

“Studying personal issues relative to coming of age, in multicultural literature featuring adolescent female protagonists, is one way to help adolescent immigrant girls bridge the gap between the familiar old world and the strange new world” (Gregg).

They also suggest that novels of this type can be used to help teach non-immigrant youth that the coming-of-age struggles experienced by female immigrant youth transcends cultural boundaries (Gregg).

Hansen, Joyce. “Multicultural Literature: A Story of Your Own.” *United in Diversity: Using Multicultural Young Adult Literature in the Classroom*. Ed. Jean E. Brown and Elaine C. Stephens. Urbana: National Council of Teachers of English, 1998. Print.

Effects of immigrant literature in the real world

Hron, Madelaine. Translating Pain: Immigrant Suffering in Literature and Culture.

“Our limited understanding of immigrant suffering may have effects in real life: in public attitudes towards immigrants, and, as a result, in public policy” (Hron xii).

“Immigrants may internalize the conventional image of the successful immigrant, and so feel compelled to play down the suffering of immigration, be it in their new country or in their home country, so as to measure up to the stereotypical fiction of success.” This also may be as a result of what will sell (Hron xiv).

Graff, Jennifer M. “Countering Narratives: Teachers’ Discourses about Immigrants and Their Experiences within the Realm of Children’s and Young Adult Literature.”

Comment [j1]: It is almost impossible to write a research paper if you have not done some sort of research and organization before starting to write. Making an outline is a very smart idea!

Comment [j2]: Listing your research question at the top of the page can help you stay focused in your research.

Comment [j3]: Divide up your research into different chunks that are relevant for answering your research question, and divide the information you find into these chunks.

Comment [j4]: Always make sure to keep track of your sources so that you know where you found your information.

Comment [j5]: After listing a source, write out relevant quotes and information from that source.

Comment [j6]: You may use a source in your research but then decide that you do not actually need it in your paper. That’s okay! You may also realize that you need more sources once you sit down to actually write your paper.

Comment [j7]: Even if you don’t find specific quotes or information from a source right away, write it down if you think it may be helpful later.

“With the juxtaposition of the increasing number of linguistically and culturally diverse student populations in the public school sector and escalating anti-immigrant sentiments within the U.S., educators are poised to become more active stewards of critical thinking and agents of change” (Graff 107).

“The power of story as an ‘imaginative vehicle for questioning, shaping, responding, and participating in the world’ for ‘personal and social exploration and reflection’ (McGinley, et al. 1997, pg. 43)” (Graff 126-127).

“The effects texts have on people’s attitudes and behaviors. These effects can then affect people’s social relations and the material world” (Graff 127).

Comment [j8]: If you are using a book, make sure to write down the page number so you don’t need to go back and find it later.