



Shakespeare Residency at Community School of Davidson

Residency for 'Shakespeare: Outside the Box'.

The four hour four day residency for ninety high school seniors demonstrated remarkable growth in their social and creative skills .

It was a very successful residency thanks to the support and participation of the English teacher, Kimberly Keith. She opened her room to major transformations, clearing the desks into the hallway and helping me to create an open space for the residency. She provided room for my supply of hats, materials, masks, puppets, musical instruments and costumes. Her energy and support of the residency transferred to the students who welcomed and embraced the residency.

'Shakespeare: Outside the Box' is a way of thinking about Shakespeare in a different way such as using puppets (which I provided) to play the witches in 'Macbeth' or 'throwing a dismembered arm for emphasis. Lesson plans included 'Shakespeare insults' (for articulation), projection 'My voice is powerful', '32 second Macbeth', a competitive activity using concentration, focus, articulation and speed', monologues, scenes Shakespeare and specific Macbeth scenes staged and acted 'outside the box'. On day one the students were brave and fearless as they donned the costumes (boys wearing female costumes and girls wearing boys costumes...no one cared what gender they played) The masks and puppets were a big hit. On our last day of class the students were given scenes from Macbeth to present 'outside the box'. The guidelines for presenting their scenes included: select a place for your scene, use three levels (we had six boxes for them to choose), have sound (instruments were provided or they could use music from their cell phones [sometimes they used both]) and select lighting effects (I provided two clip lights, plus many chose to turn off the overhead lights or flash them on and off) and wear costumes or use the masks or puppets. When Mrs. Keith told me a few of her students felt too shy to act I suggested they help with sound and lights which they felt comfortable to do.

Their presentations using lights, sound, props and costumes were extraordinary! I applauded their creativity, vulnerability, and thinking 'Outside the Box'. Please see videos.
