

Title of Session: Arts and Literacy - Symbols (cont'd)

Moderator: BJ Berquist

Title of File: 20070806artslitsymbols2

Date: August 6, 2007

Room: ArtsSites Group

BJB2: Welcome, everyone to this month's Arts and Literacy discussion...

BJB2: I'd like to set some ground rules please since we have such a nice group...

BJB2: I have an agenda of sites to share with you....the url of the sites is on the whiteboard above this chat on the right

BJB2: once you've opened that url, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat window and click on DETACH

BJB2 . o O (this will make your chat window larger and easier to follow)

BJB2: anyone having trouble opening the url?

ArturoM joined the room.

AidaM: done

AdrianB : done

BJB2: welcome, Arturo

AlexandrMB: me2

ArturoM: hello

JovanaG: nope

JoAnnaG: nope

LourdesR: much better

BJB2: I'm going to start the discussion with introductions, please. Tell me what you teach or hope to teach and how you feel symbols are involved in that discipline

RaylaS: special Education-.....

BJB2: I teach communication in Pennsylvania and feel symbols are important to all

forms of communication

CarlosJ: I plan to teach science, symbols are a big part of that field

MichaelA: in music..symbols are big as well

AidaM: I plan to teach either English or Spanish

LourdesR: I plan to teach ELA for junior high kids and am aware that symbols play a big part of our daily lives

JovanaG: I'm hoping to teach EC-4 and symbols are very important

AndreaZ: I plan to teach elementary school and symbols are great for children

LuisCM: Music Education, symbols are necessary

DavidW: I'm David Weksler. I'm one of the Helpdesk volunteers. I help teachers learn more about educational technology - I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

PabloF: I'm going for my Music Ed. degree

BJB2: were any of you at this discussion last month?

AlexandrMB: well I want to teach 11th grade lit and I agree with Lourdes that symbols are a big part of our daily lives

JoAnnaG: nope

CarlosJ: I wasn't

LourdesR: I was not

JovanaG: no, sorry

AidaM: Not me

AndreaZ: no

PabloF: I wasn't

LuisCM: no

RaylaS: nope

BJB2: Then let's start with what you think a symbol is?

LizaR: representation of a word

LourdesR: a sign that stands for something or has a meaning

AndreaZ: I think it is a visual that helps us remember and visualize an idea

JovanaG: a representation

AidaM: It represents something

LuisCM: how are we supposed to teach without symbolism???

RaylaS: replaces a word

AlexandrMB: we can't

BJB2: ok...let's look at this definition Sign: Something that stands for something else.

LuisCM: most of my attention in school was a focus to the symbolism the teacher was using

JoAnnaG: a sign that stands for something

BJB2: Symbol: Something that represents something else by association, resemblance, or convention. Something visible representing something invisible.

BJB2: A symbol can be imbued with rich layers of meanings

LizaR: so just about anything can be a symbol as long as it's visual?

JovanaG: the U.S. Flag?

BJB2: well, what do you all think about Liza's question?

MichaelA: not really

MichaelA: a word can be a symbol

LizaR: a smile

AlexandrMB: like the peace sign by using our two fingers

CarlosJ: anything can be a symbol, it just depends on how you look at it

PabloF: the middle finger everyone knows that symbol

ArturoM: yes Pablo

BJB2: . o O (thanks, Pablo ;-)

MichaelA: symbols can be good and bad

BJB2: so what is the difference between a sign and a symbol?

MichaelA: as Pablo expressed

LourdesR: that is true

AidaM: I think that even if it is not visible and you can feel it, it can represent something.

LizaR: but the same symbol can mean different things to different people/cultures

LuisCM: a sign leads you to a certain place or location?

AndreaZ: it depends on the context

CarlosJ: exactly Aida

BJB2 thinks this is a very brilliant group! Good thinking!

LourdesR: I also agree with Aida

BJB2: ok...let's take a look at the page where I got the definitions I just showed you...the first track

BJB2: <http://www.symbols.net/>

BJB2: This is a HUGE site

AlexandrMB: it looks like it

BJB2: take a couple minutes to scan what all is there

LourdesR: there is plenty here

MichaelA: I can see

JoAnnaG: there is a lot here

BJB2: I'm not advocating this site as an authoritative resource, but it's a great opportunity to look at a variety of perspectives

CarlosJ: wow this IS a huge site

DavidW smiles

BJB2: someone had mentioned cultural interpretations of symbols...

AidaM: wow, I like this

BJB2: can someone give me an example of how different cultures would interpret a symbol?

LizaR: the thumbs up

BJB2: tell me more, Liza

LizaR: in Europe it's an insult and here in the states it something different

BJB2 nods...thanks. Anyone else?

CarlosJ: dreadlocks are considered a hippy thing in the US, in Rasta cultures it's the norm a part of their culture

LizaR: hitchhikers use it to ask for a ride

LuisCM: like in some places in the middle east

PabloF: very true

LuisCM: you can't wave with your right hand

BJB2: good one, Carlos. Dreads can also represent gang culture

MichaelA: even in our own country things mean different

BJB2: what about Native American symbols?

ArturoM: colors

ArturoM: they also are a symbol

BJB2: colors are certainly symbols that represent different things to different cultures

CarlosJ: we call the sun, the sun, some native American cultures call it "day-moon"

AndreaZ: I wonder if traffic lights have a different meaning somewhere else

BJB2: I bring the topic up because you need to be very cautious when you address symbols in your classrooms...

JoAnnaG: I remember doing a paper in Brown's class about native American names such as Indians or Redskins used in basketball are offensive

LourdesR: good question Andrea

RaylaS: when I do yoga.. there is a pose called the tree pose... although it really doesn't look like a tree it represents it

BJB2: thanks, JoAnna...that is exactly where I was heading

BJB2: let's move to the next track

<http://www.schoolsliasion.org.uk/aliens/access/signsSym/signsSym.htm>

JoAnnaG: I remember this newspaper article that said "Orioles skinned the Braves" or something that was offensive

BJB2: Symbols have been important to artists from the very earliest times. They often represent an idea or quality, for example the colour white usually stands for purity and the lion makes us think of courage.

LizaR: with the exception of the wizard of oz

LuisCM: lol

PabloF: haha

CarlosJ: the artist formerly known as prince, aka that weird symbol

LizaR: I think he's prince again

BJB2: as you mentioned earlier, color is a powerful symbol...

AidaM: Yeah the God of the Muslims

BJB2: and different cultures interpret color differently

LizaR: like red for rage or blood

PabloF: purple for royalty

AlexandrMB: exactly

LourdesR: so true

AlexandrMB: black for death and evil

MichaelA: white for purity at weddings

CarlosJ: green for nature and growth

ArturoM: like the characters from The Wizard of Oz

BJB2: something else that I find is that color can be a very individual interpretation....are any of you familiar with Dr. Seuss' My Many Colored Days?

CarlosJ: yellow for cowards

LizaR: yellow or light colors for tranquility

LizaR: y

JovanaG: nope

AlexandrMB: yes like blue

AndreaZ: no

JoAnnaG: no

RaylaS: no

BJB2: <http://www.seussville.com/titles/days/>

AidaM: gray for sorrow

AdrianB: no

ChristineQ: what do you think blue represents?

CarlosJ: sadness

HilarioP: so we should be careful what colors to use in front of certain kids?

LizaR: is that the one where he has different feelings that take on different color representations

MichaelA: freedom

AidaM: I don't know

AdrianB: peace

MichaelA: like the sky and ocean

ChristineQ: sadness?

AlexandrMB: or how baby react to color

CarlosJ: I know when I'm feeling blue, I'm often times sad

LuisCM: a fresh start

AlexandrMB: colors are important to babies

BJB2: there is a wonderful video that goes with the book that uses music

RaylaS: very important

LuisCM: I feel fresh with a lighter blue

AlexandrMB: they see more of them

ChristineQ: my bf's room is a dark blue, and it calms me, I love it

CarlosJ: why do you think artists like SRV and BB king play the blues?

PabloF: yeah, I always thought of dark blue as tranquility

BJB2: http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/boxoffice/video_detail.cfm?video=39848047

LizaR: ?who?

BJB2: so sound can be rich with color also

HilarioP: if my favorite color is red, does that make me a bad person?

CarlosJ: yes, I associate sounds with colors all the time

PabloF: no

LizaR: oic

LourdesR: yes I agree bj

LuisCM: I saw in the news that some people see colors when they hear music

BJB2: Hilario, that is what I am trying to convey...color is individual

BJB2 nods to Luis

AlexandrMB: no they can have many meanings

BJB2: and some people hear sounds when they look at colors

CarlosJ: I do

LuisCM: every pitch is a different color

AndreaZ: really?

ElissaR: I often see colors when I play music.....not all pitches, but some...I have a friend who sees colors when she hears pitches

BJB2: so...obviously, this idea of symbols is pretty complex

RaylaS: very

HilarioP: red could represent a rose not just blood

AlexandrMB: it is like when u use the media player to play music on the computer

JoAnnaG: very

AidaM: that is right

ElissaR: yes, each pitch is a different color, works both ways for me, see a color, hear a sound, hear a sound and see a color

CarlosJ: red could mean STOP!

BJB2: Ready to move to the next track?

LuisCM: a dark red gives me the creeps

AlexandrMB: all different colors appear as it continues

LizaR: y

JoAnnaG: yes

CarlosJ: yes

BJB2 . o O (turn up your sound

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/share/ugrr/index.html?CFID=746017&CFTOKEN=69424248>)

ArturoM: yes

AdrianB: hope so

MichaelA: yea

BJB2 lets everyone explore that site for a few moments

ElissaR: can't seem to get there,

AidaM: can't open it

BJB2:

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/share/ugrr/index.html?CFID=746017&CFTOKEN=69424248>

CarlosJ: when I associate sounds with colors I think of Pink Floyd

RaylaS: good one

BJB2: another book that is a lovely example of quilts as symbols is Show Way

AidaM: Now I did

JovanaG: the old south

BJB2: by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Hudson Talbott

JovanaG: sitting on a front porch

AlexandrMB: the lesson sounds fun and informative

LourdesR: cool

BJB2: symbols can be used as maps to freedom, as recorders of history

PabloF: the Mayan calendar is all symbols

BJB2 nods to Pablo

LuisCM: 2012

MichaelA: so are street signs

LourdesR: oh yea that is true

CarlosJ: think about it, what you're reading right now, what is that?

BJB2 smiles...right, Carlos....we'll get to that in a couple minutes

RaylaS: letters are symbols too

BJB2: take a look at this cultural symbolism
http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/nasp/hd_nasp.htm

AlexandrMB: it lets the students feel the history

AlexandrMB: that our country had

AlexandrMB: like the slavery issues it mentions

AidaM: interesting

BJB2: yikes...I must have caught that disconnect bug from one of you!

LourdesR: rather interesting

BJB2: language is certainly a code if not symbolic...

BJB2: what about American Sign Language?

PabloF: the written Chinese language

AidaM: I like the Islamic signs

MichaelA: what about all the internet abbreviations?

RaylaS: I was thinking that

MichaelA: lol idk brb ect....

ElissaR: any sign language is based on symbols

AndreaZ: does sign language change for different spoken languages?

LourdesR: even ASL has some signs that mean different things

MichaelA: yea it does

BJB2: Hold on a sec, everyone....

LizaR: yeah

ElissaR: yes, and also for different regions and dialects

AidaM: This picture is very nice

CarlosJ: my son is learning to sign before he can actually talk

LizaR: for instance at the hospital you can get a person who signs in English or Spanish if you need it

HilarioP: mine to

BJB2: we're starting to get to some superficial definitions and confusing signs with symbols

DavidW: that's interesting, Carlos

AlexandrMB: I bet it comes in handy

ElissaR: we taught my son sign first.....he was able to grasp spoken language better and NO terrible twos

RaylaS: it's very cool... and they are different signs for different words.. it just depends who teaches you or where you're at

ElissaR: also was great for his motor skills development

BJB2 nods to Rayla...the ASL site in the tracks is <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/>

AlexandrMB: now u don't have to wonder what he needs or want

CarlosJ: but it worries me that he might find it easier to sign than talk to us

RaylaS: its nice he just shows us what he wants..

ElissaR: Because sign lang is based on symbols and full concepts, my son was thinking in full sentences and thoughts at a much earlier age.....nope, he wont find it easier, he'll just add spoken word to his bag of communication tools

ElissaR: I promise

CarlosJ: btw, Rayla is my wife (if any of you were wondering about that last comment)

BJB2 smiles...nice!

JoAnnaG: oh ok

BJB2: Here's the topic you're not supposed to discuss...religion

BJB2: <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/religion/rel3a/>

PabloF: ooo

AidaM smiles

BJB2 . o O (never discuss politics or religion)

CarlosJ: don't get me started on that.....

ElissaR: should we go there?

JoAnnaG: uh oh

HilarioP: don't go there

LourdesR: let us not get started

AdrianB : no

ElissaR: to the site, I mean...not to the religious discussion

AidaM: oh no

AdrianB : ok

AidaM: why argue about that

LourdesR: let us have it

BJB2: <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/schemes2/religion/rel3a/>

BJB2: this site is from the UK. Has some great information

CarlosJ: cool site

AlexandrMB: it is

RaylaS: it does have great information

AdrianB: yeap

BJB2: I'm going to move along before we run out of time....everyone's favorite: animals

BJB2: <http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/middle/animals.htm>

LourdesR: gotta love animals

AidaM: not bad

AidaM: I love animals

LuisCM: loved the zoo

MichaelA: me too

AlexandrMB: of course who doesn't

AdrianB: me 2

AndreaZ: me3

JoAnnaG: me 4

ArturoM: me5

LuisCM: I have a puppy

BJB2: and animals can be used from pre-k to university level

LuisCM: biology

AndreaZ: even religion

AidaM laughs

BJB2: for you musicians: <http://musiced.about.com/b/a/257685.htm>

AlexandrMB: because no can get enough

AidaM: I thought I was going to see real animals

LuisCM: elephants are popular in some cultures

AlexandrMB: or mean good luck

CarlosJ: so are tigers and cows

AndreaZ: birds too

LuisCM: the horoscopes

ElissaR: lions mean strength,

LourdesR: I'm a sheep in the Chinese calendar

LizaR: cows are sacred in India

ElissaR: wolves are sneaky

BJB2: and for those who want to explore that stop sign a little more:
http://english.unitecnology.ac.nz/resources/units/signs_symbols/international.html

LuisCM: cancer is a crab

AlexandrMB: I am a bunny

ElissaR: owls are wise

LuisCM: I'm a tiger

BJB2 wonders if anyone is looking at the sites just shared?

LizaR: yes, lyk da asl

AdrianB: it's loading

JovanaG: yes

BJB2 makes a note to save the animals for last next time ;-)

AlexandrMB: yeah weird symbols

ElissaR: I am trying, but they are not working, even when I type the addy seperately, using my son's comp....funky stuff happening

ElissaR: sorry

CarlosJ: I would if it didn't take me a while to type in the long URL

CarlosJ: I can't click them

ElissaR: I can't seem to connect just by hitting the link

ElissaR: me either

AidaM: lots of these signs are seen every day

ElissaR: nope. not working, keep clicking, not moving

LourdesR: oh yea we have seen these in many places

CarlosJ: my comp makes this bubble sound and doesn't work

HilarioP: they are common signs that everyone can understand

HilarioP: like the male/female restroom symbols

AlexandrMB: yea they are

BJB2: the urls will be in your transcripts so hopefully you can look later

AidaM: When driving

CarlosJ: yeah just copy and paste them from the trans

JoAnnaG: yeh

ElissaR: to Carlos, thanks for sharing....I was starting to feel left out and less than computer savvy :(

BJB2: so while some symbols vary from culture to culture, there are some symbols that are international

JovanaG: true

AndreaZ: right

ElissaR: music symbols are almost universal

CarlosJ: I think the smile is universal

AlexandrMB: that is true too

ArturoM: the thumbs up

ElissaR: yup

AdrianB : true

RaylaS: good

PabloF: math symbols are universal

CarlosJ: everyone understands a smile and a laugh

AlexandrMB: or a hand wave

PabloF: right?

ArturoM: the ok sign

LuisCM: gestures

AdrianB : agree with Pablo

MichaelA: a wink

LourdesR: smiles are contagious

HilarioP: thumbs up

ArturoM: I agree with Mike

BJB2: here's another one on the underground railroad

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/secrets/music1.cfm>

CarlosJ: so are yawns

HilarioP: what about the peace sign? do you think that's universal?

AidaM: I agree with Lourdes

ElissaR: babies have a universal language....symbols as well, dont you think?

CarlosJ: I think the peace sign is becoming a part of everyone's culture

BJB2: I wish it was universal, Hilario

BJB2 . o O (it's also a gang sign)

MichaelA: even in the movie the little rascals

ArturoM: wow

AlexandrMB: what!

MichaelA: he man woman hater club

JoAnnaG: really?

ArturoM: it's a gang sign?

BJB2 nods sadly

CarlosJ: yeah vatos locos

ArturoM: didn't know

ArturoM: lol

JoAnnaG: I didn't know

AlexandrMB: umm. that's sad

AlexandrMB frowns

LourdesR: that's too bad

LuisCM: any hand symbol could be from a certain gang

LuisCM: I guess

BJB2: for those interested in language take a look at
<http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/langorigins.html>

LuisCM: lol

AlexandrMB: I like it

AndreaZ: onomatopoeia sounds are different in different languages

LourdesR: interesting

PabloF: ah yes, very true

BJB2: I also found this site interesting <http://www.lyricalworks.com/homepage.htm>

AidaM: wow, I'm saving it on my favorites

JoAnnaG: bye everyone I'm going to attend another workshop at 7 pm

ElissaR: sometimes, if I think my students are having trouble understanding and/or remembering the lyrics of a song they are singing, I'll teach them the signs (ASL) it makes it easier to translate and remember

CarlosJ: song lyrics are hard to understand sometimes

DavidW: . o O (but often easy to remember because of the music)

LuisCM: literally

CarlosJ: exactly

AndreaZ: yeah

RaylaS: I like music

AlexandrMB: yep!

LourdesR: I agree

ElissaR: yes, they are...I am going to move over to the blogging session, it's been fun, thank you for including me.

CarlosJ: I can remember a songs lyrics by hearing its melody

AlexandrMB: me 2

CarlosJ: even if I cant remember them with out it

CarlosJ: some people are just more musically inclined

MichaelA: is it the songs or catchy beats?

DavidW: could be both, Michael

LuisCM: to me is the catchy beats

HilarioP: I once read about a math teacher who taught his kids through music

LourdesR: I enjoyed this session have to go to another class thanks

RaylaS: that would be cool

ArturoM: it's sometimes both Michael A

ArturoM: don't you think so

CarlosJ: for some reason when I hear country music, I kind of tune out the lyrics

DavidW: wonderful connections between math and music, also math and dance

LuisCM: everything is math

DavidW smiles

AidaM: that is true

AlexandrMB: ummm. it like hananna montana dance about the human body

RaylaS: that's cool

BJB2: we have a couple minutes left...any final comments?

HilarioP: I think I could have remembered more math facts if i learned a song about them.

RaylaS: great discussion!!!!

ArturoM: I agree

AlexandrMB: I agree too

ArturoM: very informative

PabloF: enlightening

AlexandrMB: it was a good class

CarlosJ: I think symbols are one of the largest parts of our lives whether we notice it or not

MichaelA: like the names of the states in order

AndreaZ: the web sites were very interesting

AidaM: yeah

RaylaS: have to go now... have another one to go to

ArturoM: I agree with Pablo

RaylaS: bye

AlexandrMB: thanks BJ

AdrianB: very informative and cool sites

BJB2: . o O (a reminder that all the urls are on the track on the whiteboard)

AlexandrMB: yep!

HilarioP: thanks for the interesting chat.

DavidW: Here's a web site for math and dance, if folks are interested:

AidaM: see you all

DavidW: <http://www.mathdance.org/>

BJB2: thanks, David

LuisCM: have a good one

PabloF: thank you, bye everyone

JovanaG: thanks for the sites BJ

BJB2: thank you all...good job!