

The Reflective Journal: Week 15

This past week was the last week of ISTEPs and the students could not be happier. Therefore, this week we focused mainly on reviewing social studies. I implemented spelling lessons, finished reading *Hatchet* to the students, and facilitated after school tutoring. I also attended the track meet on Tuesday and the teacher job fair on Wednesday.

My goal for this week was to ask more why questions and higher order questions instead of just right there questions while reading *Hatchet*. Each day, I would read either a chapter or two to the class. Periodically while reading, I would stop and ask the students questions. I also asked students questions at the end of each chapter too. For example, one of the questions I asked was do you agree with Brian saying it is more dangerous to live in the woods than to live in the city. Throughout the book, I asked students questions that pertained to developing opinions, judgements, and decisions. Thus, meeting my goal.

My most proud moment was finishing up reading *Hatchet* to the students. Most of the students absolutely loved *Hatchet* and were sad that it ended. While discussing the end of the book, the students could not believe that all Brian had to do was get the survival pack and he could have been saved weeks ago. Reading the book was my most proud moment because it was the first time that I actually had all of the students' attention at one time. This was due to the book itself and also my reading voice. Some of the students even commented that they liked the way that I read to them.

On the other hand, one of my failures this week was during tutoring. On Thursday, I had three students with me for tutoring. For the first ten minutes, they were working hard. Then, one student decided he could not stay quiet and ended up in the hallway. The other two students were also having a hard time concentrating. I counted down on my fingers from three as a way to tell them to get back to work and it worked for a while. However, for the last twenty minutes almost nothing got accomplished. The other student in the hallway came back in to receive help and the students kept goofing off. One student kept staring at me because he said that I kept smiling when I talked. Overall, the students were way off task and it was hard managing them.

Throughout this week, Mr. York and I had several conversations about the students' effort during ISTEP. We were both extremely pleased at how hard the students worked and that most of the students used the entire time to answer and review the questions. We also had conversations about plans after graduation since he also will be starting a new job. He shared the process of applying to different districts and shared various techniques. On Friday, one student could not control his temper and exploded even though he did not do anything wrong. Therefore, one of the biggest lessons I learned this week was students could be academically at the right level, but they need to also be emotionally and socially at their level as well because they are equally important.