John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference

2012, 23rd Annual JWP Conference

Apr 14th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Global Education Through Children's Literature

Emily Schmidt
Illinois Wesleyan University

Robin Leavitt, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc

Schmidt, Emily and Leavitt, Faculty Advisor, Robin, "Global Education Through Children's Literature" (2012). John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference. 34. https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2012/ESposters/34

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.
©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.
Global Education Through Children’s Literature
Emily Schmidt - Illinois Wesleyan University

Research Question  How can I best help students gain a genuine understanding and respect for other countries and cultures? My interest in this subject began as a result of my study abroad experience in Barcelona, Spain.

Why is Global Education Important?
• If students are not exposed to countries and cultures that are different than their own, they will not be prepared to compete or participate in our global economy
• Global education can help create and foster a classroom environment that welcomes and encourages all forms of diversity
• Helps to validate and positively represent the viewpoint and values of a variety of cultures
• Provides students with necessary background knowledge to reconsider cultural stereotypes

Connection to Children’s Literature
• Allows students to bring their background knowledge and personal experiences to the classroom
• Children’s books serve as a powerful tool to generate classroom discussion and provides students with a safe way to discuss unfamiliar or difficult topics
• Well-written and well-illustrated literature allows students to view the world through an authentic and new perspective
• Builds community in the classroom through shared sessions of discovery

Definitions
• Multicultural Education: a total curriculum reform that seeks to achieve social justice by educating students about the racial, economic, religious, gender, ability and ethnic diversity in the country in which the students reside
• Global Education: the study of human beliefs and values, global systems, global issues and problems, global history, cross-cultural understanding/interaction, awareness of human choices, the development of analytical and evaluative skills and strategies for participation and involvement (Lucas, 2010)

Implications for Student Teaching
• Interested to see how my predominately white classroom responds to global children’s literature
• A great challenge will be teaching the content without applying a Western perspective and an “over there” mentality
• Important to create an environment where all cultures are understood as both different and “normal”