

Blogging About Literary Theme

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Project Description - As my eighth graders read *Party Girl* by Lynne Ewing, we blogged about the novel's plot, characters and, as this example shows, literary theme.



Theme of Party Girl

We've been reading the book *Party Girl*. In support of our culminating task, please post a comment with the following information:

 What are two themes of *Party Girl*? Explain why you think each is a theme. Then, explain whether the theme is true in your life (or how it relates to your life). Make sure you write a complete paragraph for each theme.

Posted by Ms. Minkin at 2:05 PM 

As seen in the picture above, the prompt was “What are two themes of *Party Girl*? Explain why you think each is a theme. Then, explain whether the theme is true in your life (or how it relates to your life). Make sure you write a complete paragraph for each theme.”

There were several goals:

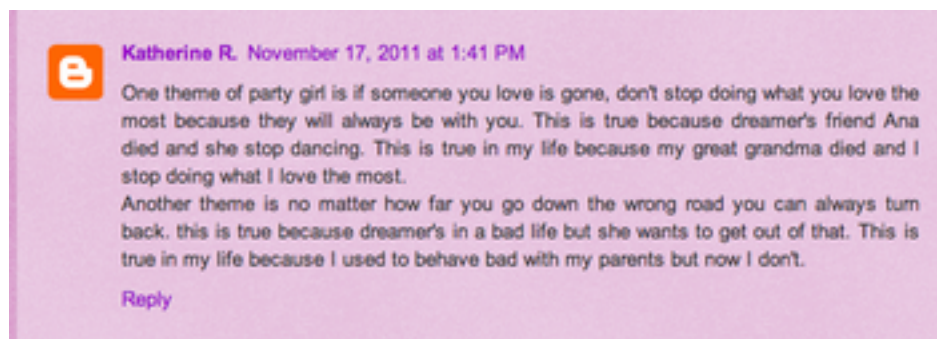
1. Get the students to think about the themes of the book
2. Provide textual evidence to support their views
3. Think about how the theme may or may not be true in their own lives.


Goals one and two above are standard ELA fare. But our goals for this grant have been to use the literacy that students bring to the classroom (which is often not validated by school) and to use it to help them understand the more traditional ELA canon.

Blogging about theme was the perfect opportunity. Using the literacy of technology and the literacy of their own lives, students were responded to the prompt with evidence from their own lives.

Scroll down to see student work, or [click here](#) to see all comments.

[Click here](#) to learn a trick for responding to students via email instead of on the blog.



 **Katherine R.** November 17, 2011 at 1:41 PM

One theme of party girl is if someone you love is gone, don't stop doing what you love the most because they will always be with you. This is true because dreamer's friend Ana died and she stop dancing. This is true in my life because my great grandma died and I stop doing what I love the most.

Another theme is no matter how far you go down the wrong road you can always turn back. this is true because dreamer's in a bad life but she wants to get out of that. This is true in my life because I used to behave bad with my parents but now I don't.

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17 comments:



Emily C. November 16, 2011 at 2:30 PM

Revenge is not always the answer.

This theme is true because Dreamer regrets going to shoot Raul at the party.

It is true in my life because I have tried to get revenge on somebody and I did not feel good I felt worse than how I felt before.

Joining a gang is not the right answer.

This theme is true because Dreamer regrets joining a gang at the end of the book.

This is true in life because my brothers joined a gang and they ended up in a bad place.

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Bayron R. November 17, 2011 at 1:48 PM

One theme is that it is never right to get revenge on anything/anyone. this is true because dreamer thought it was wrong to kill raul at the party. this is true in my life because i wanted to get back at my brother for bugging me

Another theme is that you shouldn't join gangs. In the end of the book Dreamer regrets getting in the gang because her life got worse. this is true because one of my brothers friends got killed in a drive by...he was really sad

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