Letting Go: The Multiple Roles of a Teacher in Literature Discussions

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Keywords: literature discussions, culturally relevant literature

Abstract
As a first grade Spanish bilingual teacher I decided to implement literature discussion groups in my classroom as a way to give my students a space to share their thoughts and ideas. This paper captures the evolving relationship between teacher-students through the application of literature discussions. Moreover, this paper discusses the difficulty of moving away from (IRE): teacher initiate, student respond, and teacher evaluate pattern consistently. More importantly, this paper discusses one teacher’s journey in the process of letting go of control and the multiple roles she must enact in order to do so.

Author Biography
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I am currently in my fourth year of the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Education, Language and Literacy Division. Besides being a full time student and I also a full time elementary school teacher. I am in my seventh year as a lower elementary bilingual teacher.
classroom discussions about literature, as well as at the views of teachers and learners. Importantly, the reactions that learners have to incorporating literature in their language. lessons are linked to the type of approach and type of task that are used in the classroom. survey was entitled Teaching literature in a foreign language. It looked at. developments in literary theory, reader response, and communicative language. The teacher’s role goes well beyond information giving, with the teacher having a range of key roles to play in the education process. What one sees as good teaching, suggests Biggs (1999), depends on what conception of teaching one has. □ from the literature relating to the roles of a teacher identified in Medline and the TIME (Topics In Medical Education) database and from medical education texts including Cox and Ewan (1988) and Newble and Cannon (1995). The six areas of activity of the teacher can be summarised as: 1 The teacher as information provider 2 The teacher as role model 3 The teacher as facilitator 4 The teacher as assessor 5 The teacher as planner 6 The teacher as resource developer.