

Thoughtful Dialogues and Socratic Seminars

Student Reading Comprehension

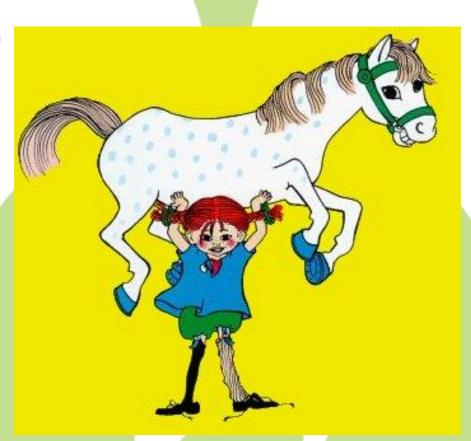
Key-note speach
Philosophy of Education in Practice
Kharazmi University October 2014

ann.pihlgren@igniteresearch.org www.igniteresearch.org

At last Tommy spoke:

- Why did you walk backward?
- Why did I walk backward? said Pippi. Isn't it a free country? Can't a person walk any way she wants to? For that matter, let me tell you that in Egypt everybody walks that way, and nobody thinks it's the least bit strange.
- How do you know? asked Tommy. You never been in Egypt, have you?
- I've never been in Egypt? Indeed I have.
 That's one thing you can be sure of. I have been all over the world and seen many things stranger than people walking backwards. I wonder what you would have said if I had come along walking on my hands the way they do in Farthest India.
- Now you must be lying, said Tommy. Pippi though a moment.
- You're right, she said sadly, I'm lying.
- It's wicked to lie, said Annika, who had at last gathered enough courage to speak.
- Yes, it's very wicked to lie, said Pippi even more sadly. But I forget it now and then.

Excerpt from "Pippi moves into Villa Villerkulla" by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren.



Pippi Longstocking

- Would you like to have Pippi as your friend?
 - Motivate your answer!

Learning takes place in interaction

To understand is to see patterns

Peter Gärdenfors, professor in cognitive science, Lund University

Language and concepts offer "handles on reality"

Åke Edfeldt, professor emeritus in reading didactics, Stockholm Universitet

Every age must re-negotiate ideas and concepts if we are to build the society of tomorrow

John Dewey, professor emeritus USA, progressive pedagogical thinker

We learn through interaction with others and the context

Lev Vygotskij, developemtal psychologist, Sovjet union, progressive pedagogical thinker











Meet one's personal needs and goals

Improve and develop





The thinking classroom



- School as a unique practice the workshop of knowledge
- Classroom develops disciplined thinking and analytical concepts
- Students learn to question static thinking
 - In favor of sense and sensibility
 - To be able to renew society through thought and creativity
- Dialogue and reading as tools of the workshop

Thinking interpersonally and intrapersonally

- Piaget:
 - Assimilation and accomodation
- Vygotsky:
 - The proximal development zone PDZ

To read...

- On the lines literary what it says
- Between the lines catch the underlying meaning and make inferences
- Beyond the lines evaluate the interpretation and relate to personal experiences

Identificatory reading

(Trondman, 1994)

- A particular kind of reading, focused on understanding and analysis, rather than decoding or memorizing. (Coles, 1989, Lindström, 2000, Marton & Säljö, 1997)
- The reader relates to the text in a personal, emotional way, but also through analysis and examining the text, and by comparing to personal experiences. (Rosenblatt, 1995, Wade et al., 1994)
- A critical reading, offering the reader possibility to find solutions to problematic situations in life. (Emery & Csikszentmihaly, 1981), Furman, 1998, Lindström, 2005, Trondman, 1994)
 - Fictive characters act as partners in an inner dialogue.
 - The reader encounters events and contexts, which he/she wouldn't have met with, if not in reading.

A question of teacher asking questions...

- On the lines:
 - What's the name of the strong girl in this story?
- Between the lines:
 - What do we know about the three children Pippi, Tommy, and Annika?
 - Why do you think Pippi lies?
- Beyond the lines:
 - Would you like Pippi as a friend?
 - Is it always wrong to lie or are there situations when it's necessary?



Thoughtful dialogue

- Focus on dialogic culture AND on intellectual examination
- The great conversation of mankind
- The text, the author, and the characters are partners in dialogue about the central human ideas
- Socratic seminars, P4C and PwC, deliberative dialogue, etc.

Research on Socratic seminars have shown positive effects on:





- Critical thinking skills
- Language skills
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Talking
 - Listening
- Self-esteem and higher awareness of self (character)
- Social climate
- Ability to solve conflicts

Intellectual habits

- Intellectual habits rely heavily on dialogical virtues, ensuring a context where "bold" ideas might be tested
- The "ritualized" structure support this
- It's essential to grasp that the individual should not be held personally responsible (or rewarded) for ideas

Five-year-olds discussing

"Pippi Longstocking" by Astrid Lindgren



Facilitator's contradiction and support

From five-year-olds discussing Pippi Longstocking.

Dialogue:

Facilitator: Would you like Pippi as your friend?

Tom: Nope

Facilitator: No? And why not?

Tom: She:'sa girl (↓)

Facilitator: No but (.) you have friends that are girls

Tom: Mm sometimes yah (.) bu' not Pippi

Facilitator: Not Pippi, but if she was (.) boy then

Tom: Not (.) no

Facilitator: But but is it really so Mart (.) eh Tom that you think so

Tom: Yes

Facilitator: You who usually play a lot with the girls

Tom: Mm atleast instead smaller boys it doesn't matta if it's a girl or a boy

Facilitator: So it doesn't matter

Tom: Mm

Facilitator: Okay

Idun conducts

From five-year-olds discussing Pippi Longstocking.

Dialogue:

Facilitator: a real such (.) but I was thinking now you said Ricki ma:rty do you

think he looks like her or Tom: He's good looking

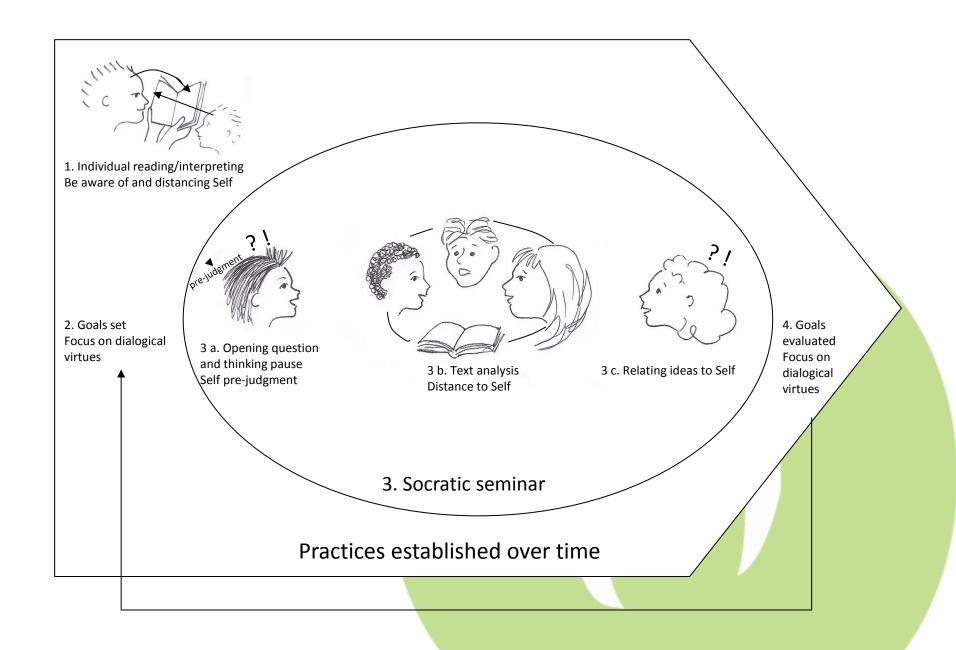
Facilitator: He's g

Martin: He sings we:::ll

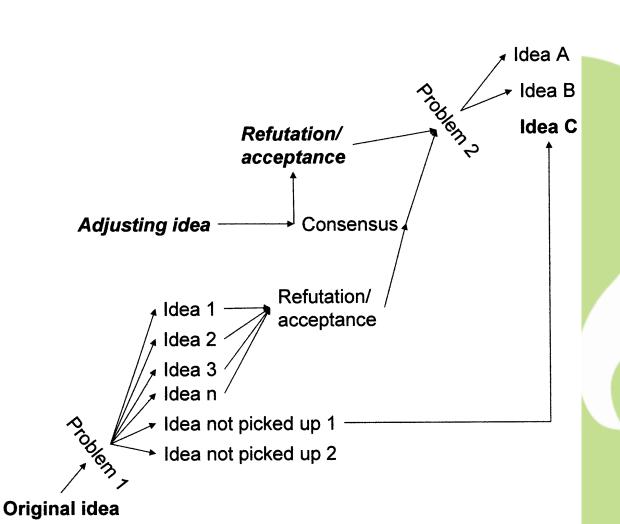
Facilitator: He's good <u>looking</u> buh Tom: He sings good if itsounds

Facilitator: Sings good areya areya (.) are you good then that is

Tom: Yah you're popular



Advanced intellectual process



Lesson structure

- First reading
- Concepts in the text
- Second reading
- Discussion in small groups: One interpretive question
- Third reading
- Socratic seminar
 - Opening question
 - Analysis/ interpretation
 - Evaluation
- Writing asignment



You find paper and slideshow at:

www.ingniteresearch.org/library

