

Think.Discuss.Act

Podcast Paideia Seminar Plan

Big Idea: Time

Text: **Time to Hear Ourselves Think,** by Dick Allen

Ideas, Values: Cause, Habit, Idea, Perception

Think

Big Ideas Chat:

How might we perceive time differently (age, season, mental space, etc.)? Think about an event from your past in which time seemed to pass at a different rate than what might be considered normal. Did time pass more slowly or more quickly? How do you know?

Read Aloud:

Read aloud the text while family, friends, colleagues, or classmates listen.

Vocabulary:

Check to see if any words need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

Discuss

Pre-Process:

Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“Our discussion is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open-ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of the discussion is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

Describe what you want to accomplish.

Set a Goal.

* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Discussion Questions:

Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):

* + Why might it be essential to allow time to “hear ourselves think?”
  + How does your notion of time change when you are alone in your thoughts?

Core (Analyze textual details):

* In stanza four, Allen says, “But now that we have Stolen this time” what do you think he means by stealing time? How do you know?
* Why do you think that Allen chose the words “Scattered, or wounded, or dead” for the last stanza of the poem? What images come to mind?

Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):

* + If you had to re-title this poem, what would you choose the title to be? Why?

Post-Discussion Process:

* Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.
* Do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Act

Post-Discussion Action:

Transition to Action:

* Review and discuss key ideas you heard, said, and thought of during the discussion.

Brainstorm:

* Talk as a group about why we perceive time differently.
* How might you find a responsible way to allow for more time to listen to yourself think? And craft a space for those around you to be able to think and listen.

Action:

* Schedule a space in your work and home calendar to have a distract free moment to think about your thinking and listen to yourself in a mindful and reflective way.

This Podcast Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

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\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/browse?contentId=39654

TIME TO HEAR OURSELVES THINK

We’ve missed that for years, not so much

The thinking itself—that goes on regardless—

But the hearing of it, small waterwheels

Turning in millponds, the press and hiss

Of steam irons in storefront laundry shops,

Gears changing, the tick in the clock

Hopping upstairs. It’s as if,

In muffled slow motion, through shock and

aftershock,

We kept feeling with our hands—all thought

Outside ourselves, all concepts

Those railroad stations we were always leaving,

Elevators, the courthouse steps

Hurrying toward collapse. But now that we have

Stolen this time, I’m beginning

To hear numbers-I swear it--

Little formations of numbers gathering

Strength as their flanks swing east, and pigeons

Cooing in bank alcoves, and my own

Pencil tapping, ears popping, the spitting sound

Made when tires roll over tiny stones

And it’s almost frightening to think

Of what was going on, how much lies there

Scattered, or wounded, or dead

In ourselves that we could not hear.

By Dick Allen, 1996