Teaching and learning through dialogue – a grounded approach

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In brief

• A few words about dialogic pedagogy
• A case study
• What models of dialogic pedagogy are best for our circumstances?

Transcript available at http://tinyurl.com/p9elr4o

For information about the book: http://dialogicpedagogy.com/
Everyone’s talking about dialogic teaching, education or pedagogy...
Why so much enthusiasm?

- Fashion (and tradition)
- Speaking and listening skills
- A respectful way of relating to pupils
- Preparation for democracy
- Developing argumentation & critical thinking
- An effective means of learning
- Dissatisfaction with current classroom culture
Socrates: Now, if you are the sort of person I am, I would like to cross-examine you. But if not I prefer to let the matter rest. And what sort of person am I? I am ready to be refuted if I say something untrue, and ready to refute anyone else who speaks wrongly. But I prefer to be refuted than to refute, for I believe that the former poses the greater benefit, since it is better to be cured of an evil than to cure another. And I imagine that there is no greater evil than to be mistaken in the matters about which we speak.

-- from Plato’s Gorgias
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- Dissatisfaction with current classroom culture
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The case study

- Literacy lesson in Ms Leigh’s Y5 classroom (Jan 2009)
Developing the plot

1. The Beginning
   - Introduce the main characters and describe the setting. What will your opening sentence be?

2. The Build-Up
   - What things happen? What clues are there? What is said? How do you build up the excitement?

3. The Problem or Dilemma
   - Things might go wrong! Is there a mystery, or do terrible things happen? Are there any disagreements?

4. The Resolution
   - How are things going to be sorted out? Problems have to be solved, and people made happy again.

5. The Ending
   - Does the story end happily ever after? What have people learned? Have characters changed?

THE STORY MOUNTAIN PLANNER

Name ........................................ Date .................................
Dramatic story openers – a demonstration

So we drop ourselves right in the action to start off with and we have some speech there as well.
A pupil challenge
An alternative opening

‘Loads of people think nothing’s going to happen as they go into a tunnel’
The key participants

Harry

Ms Leigh

William

Ms Forrester
‘ Loads of people think nothing’s going to happen as they go into a tunnel’

‘Tal stretched out his hand and pulled himself up onto the next outthrust spike of tower’
Episode 2.

‘I don’t really like that, Miss’
Some questions

• What is happening in this episode?
• How do you know?
• In what ways is the interaction in this episode more or less dialogic?
Thank you!

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dialogicpedagogy.com
Dialogic pedagogy

- Grounded in actual practice in existing classroom conditions.
- Multi-dimensional, including a range of different aspects of classroom communication and interaction.
- Views dialogue as a problem rather than a solution.