

Title: "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry
Curriculum Area: English Language Arts
Teacher:
School:
Grade Level: 9th
Career Cluster: Business Management & Administration, Education & Training, Sales & Service
Lesson Objective(s): As an individual, the student will read and comprehend a short story. As a class, students will explore areas of the cosmetology field. They will learn about the education and continuing training required for licensing in the field of cosmetology. Student will learn basic business practices of a day spa or salon.
Performance Task (Include Teacher & Student Instructions): The teacher will assign the reading of the short story "The Gift of the Magi". Student will make short summarizations or notes of the story for discussion purposes. The teacher will later ask students various questions to monitor their understanding of the reading. One point of the story revolves around a woman cutting and then selling her hair. The teacher will use this point to ask for students' input into making a web focusing on the tasks of a cosmetologist. The teacher will guide questions and responses to include the duties of a cosmetologist. The teacher will pose the question: "If you were a cosmetologist and a person (like the character in the story) ask you to cut off a large section of her hair; would you have any reservations doing so? Student's answers will vary. The teacher will then ask the question; "Are any of you interested in a career in cosmetology?" (And I am sure there will be a few people per class who will answer yes.) Those interested in this career path will become "group leaders" for an activity. The remaining class members will be broken into groups of 5 or so people; including the "group leader". Students will be given the assignment of researching the required education, licensing, and continuing education of a cosmetologist. Students may gather information from books or magazines, by making phone calls or visits to a salon or spa, and/or by using the Internet. The groups will create display boards using

the information they find.

The "group leaders" will have the authority to delegate the responsibilities of the activity and to keep the group on track. The group leader will present the display board, full of information, to the entire class.

A coordinating activity will be an individual project. Students will create a business card or newspaper ad announcing a new cosmetologist working in an established salon or spa. The teacher will show the class examples of business cards and news ads. The class will discuss important information needed for the cards or ads.

Evaluation & Scoring:

Students will be scored based on their individual participation in finding the required licensing information. Before adding individual information to the display board, students will turn in a copy of their contribution to the teacher to count as a grade.

The group will be graded by a rubric. (A rubric will be established by the teacher before beginning the project.)

Additionally, the individual business cards or news ads will be scored by the teacher based on the requirements given to the students.

Extension/Modification and/or Instructional Methodology:

As a Special Education modification, special ed students could be dispersed into various groups...thus making a smaller group setting for all.

All students will have access to the Internet as a technology tool.

Students will receive Direct Instruction from the teacher. They will also work independently while creating materials.

SCAN Skills:

BASIC SKILLS:

Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking

THINKING SKILLS:

Creative Thinking, Decision Making, Problem Solving, and seeing Things in the Mind's Eye

PERSONAL QUALITIES:

Responsibility, Sociability, Integrity, and Honesty

Exit Level TAKS Objectives:

TEKS Competencies:

FOR PURPOSES OF THE STORY:

TEKS: 6A, 6B, 7A-7C, 7J, 8A, 9B, 11C, 16A, 16E, 16F

FOR PURPOSES OF THE ACTIVITIES:

TEKS: 1B, 1C, 2A-C, 2E, 3A, 3D, 4B, 4F, 5B, 6A, 6E, 7B, 7D, 12B, 12D, 13A-13C, 13E, 14A-14D

Team Project, Guest Speaker, or Field Trip:

A guest speaker, such as Rhonda Long-Lesher, who owns an established Day Spa and works in the field of cosmetology.

A field trip to a salon or spa.

Resources:

A copy of "The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry.

Access to the Internet.

A copy of the education and training required by the state for cosmetology licenses.