Genre Play

Introduction: Genres are various types of texts, as students in the fifth grade need to know. During this activity, students will read different types of genres while the rest of their classmates “act” upon the selection being read. Students will remember this lesson for a long time.

Grade Level and Subject: Fifth Grade Reading and P.E.

TEKS: Reading 12E
      P.E. 1A-L, 2C, 3A, 7A

Materials: these will be determined by the students

Activity: This activity should be completed after the students are knowledgeable about different types of genres.

The teacher will take the students to the library, and the students will be directed to look in any type of book (fiction, nonfiction, biography, autobiography, etc.) for a scene in which some type of physical activity is being done or described. For example, the student might look in a nonfiction book in which the author is describing ways to dribble a basketball. Students might look in the biography section for a book on a famous athlete in which the athlete tells which exercises he or she completed to become proficient with his or her skill. Students might find a book in the fiction area in which a race is being described. Once students have found books that include some type of physical activity, they should check the books out of the library and take the books to the classroom.

In the classroom, the students will read the passage closely and determine what materials, if any, they will need for the physical activity found in the book, which will be done by the members of their class. Students may develop materials lists, and a time limit may be given as to when all of the materials should be brought to class. Students may be asked to volunteer to bring some needed supplies.

The teacher and students (with their books and needed materials) will then proceed to the gym or playground. Since the students will be reading from their books, the gym might be the best location for this activity. One at a time, each student will read his or her passage or selection from his or her chosen book. The rest of the class will listen closely and will complete the physical activity being described. For example, if the student is reading from a “how to” book on dribbling a basketball, the other students should have basketballs and be doing what is being described in the book. Once finished, the student who was reading will join the rest of the class, and another student will read from his or her selection. The teacher might want to break this portion of the lesson into 2–3 days, as it might take some time to complete one activity.

Evaluation: After each student has finished reading his or her selected portion of the book, the teacher will ask the students what type of genre was being read. A discussion of genres and their characteristics will follow each reading.