

Pat Flynn and Bettina Costano-Barboto: (Christopher Columbus) Language Arts, Grade 8: Emotions

**BIG IDEA:** Emotions are shared by people around the globe and across millennia. Compassion is rooted in our ability to sense the emotional state of another.

**Enduring Understanding:** The range of emotions is common for all human beings; how we express those emotions may differ between cultures, as well as between individuals.

**Essential Question:** Why is it difficult to understand the expression of emotion from one culture to another, and from one person to another?

**Class Description:** Through a series of acting exercises, students will explore a variety of emotional states described by different vocabulary words, and communicate those feelings through facial expressions, gesture, and posture. Warm-up: with a partner, a student will select a card w/ an emotion written on it. Through expression, gesture and posture, the student will attempt to communicate the word to their partner. Group exercise in a circle: Someone goes into the middle of the circle and communicates an emotion through physical expression. The group attempts to guess the feeling being expressed.

How does one's culture influence the way in which one uses one's body to express emotion?

Is there anything hidden or suppressed in certain emotional states? (E.g., is it OK to cry in public?)

Students are given a phrase from a poem, or passage from a story, and asked to interpret the emotional content, or underlying feeling, through facial expression, gesture, posture and movement, as they speak the words. Students attempt to guess the emotion being communicated. How do certain words and phrases convey emotions to us?

**Connections:** When have you felt misunderstood – your emotions somehow obscured from other people, or misinterpreted? Do you look one way on the outside, but feel differently on the inside?

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1.1 Creative Process

1.4 Aesthetic Responses and Critique Methodologies