

Advice From the Trail

Developed by: Jennifer Reiter, 2014 ExxonMobil Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline / Subject: Character Development, Writing

Topic: Personal Reflection, Journal Writing

Grade Level: 2-12, K-1 as class discussion or picture reflection

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Iditarod related quotations

Lesson Summary:

Students reflect on how the lessons learned in the Iditarod can relate to them on a personal level.

Standard's Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

Common Core Writing Standard:

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Learning Objectives:

- TLW reflect on the meaning of a quotation
- TLW respond in writing to a quotation
- TLW display proper conventions of writing

Assessment:

Journal writing can be assessed for content only, or analyzed for content and conventions of writing.

Procedural Activities:

1. Each month I display a different Iditarod related quotation on a bulletin board titled, "Advice from the Trail." During the month we discuss and analyze the quotation and how it applies to more than just the one race. We are often able to tie the message behind the quote into our reading texts, current events, classroom happenings, and our own personal lives.
2. At the end of the month, the students write a reflection in their journals discussing the meaning behind the quote and how it applies to their own lives.
3. I usually choose a few responses to share and display as mentor texts for the following month.

Materials Students Need:

Journals

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

- With my third graders, I frequently share pictures or videos of the people who said the quotes as they are often unfamiliar with the speakers.
- Responses could be shared with parents and others via classroom blogs.
- Students could comment and reflect on each other's thoughts via a classroom wiki.
- This assignment could also be done completely digitally. The teacher could post the quotation on Wallwishers and the students could reflect and respond there. <http://wallwisher.com/>
- Older students could utilize internet searches to find Iditarod related quotations to feature on the board.

Other Information:

See the included page for a starter list of quotations! Start writing down quotes you hear this week at the conference! That's how I started my list last year! An internet search or two added to my collection.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

- The activity lends itself to modification based on expected length and detail of written response.
- Students may need to complete a graphic organizer to gather their thoughts before writing.
- Older students could perhaps attempt to heed the advice given during the course of the month and then reflect on the outcome of their attempt at the end of the month.

Some Quotes to Get You Started

These quotes are, obviously, not all directly related to the Iditarod, but all could be applied to the Iditarod or have been mentioned in regards to the Iditarod.

The Four P Plan: Prepare, Plan, Practice, Persevere

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.

~Ben Franklin

The thrill is not just in the winning – but in the courage to join the race.

~Helena Johnson

It's about having a dream to do something, making a plan to do it, and making it happen.

~Rick Holt

I do not know the word 'quit.' Either I never did, or I have abolished it.

~Susan Butcher

Things worth doing are tough.

You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the further you get.

~Michael Phelps

(okay, technically not Iditarod, but a hometown hero and it applies!)

No one ever made a mistake resting.

~Joe Runyan

There is only one way to fail and that is to quit.

~Brian Hays

Dream. Try. Win.

~John Baker

The most important thing about goals is having one.

~Geoffrey Albert

The only place success comes before work is the dictionary.

~Vince Lombardi

Can't is a word I do not want to understand.

~Lance Mackey

Don't tell me I can't.

~Lance Mackey

If you're going to dream, dream big.

~Lance Mackey

Believe and you will achieve.

~Jeff King

If you want to make your dreams come true, you must stay awake.

~Keith Kirkvold (Yukon Quest musher)

Run as best you can, but enjoy the trip.

~Dr. Terry Adkins

Here's a quote for you that I think speaks to why the Iditarod works as a teaching tool to teach math, science, character development, writing, reading, and more:

The best way to teach somebody something is to have them think they're learning something else.

~ Randy Pausch