

Artifact:

Domain One, Demonstrating Knowledge of Content and Pedagogy

Nearing the end of our *Lord of the Flies* unit, I wanted students to understand the text, its themes, and importance. To do so, I did an activity called "Book in a Day". There is a book called *Coral Island*, it was created about 50 years prior to *Lord of the Flies*. *Lord of the Flies* is a critical response to *Coral Island*, in which William Golding says that a group of boys on an island would never be perfect, but rather, that we as humans are inherently evil and the boys would be savage. As you might have determined, *Coral Island* is about a group of boys who crash on an island and form the perfect utopian society.

For this activity, students were each given a chapter (or two, depending on the size and how well they read) and had to fill out the pamphlet demonstrated below. In the pamphlet, they needed to point out the chapter they read, all of the characters within it, a summary of their chapter, a drawing of a scene in the chapter, and five questions they have from the chapter. It's inevitable they will have questions, especially if their chapter was right in the middle of the book. During block day, the class was put in a circle while I was in the middle to facilitate, and they went around, chapter by chapter, teaching the book to one another. Students in each class were engaged throughout the whole period, and by the end, they had an understanding of the general summary of the book. The important lesson they learned was how this book contrasted so heavily to *Lord of the Flies*. In understanding that contrast, they were able to better understand the plot of *Lord of the Flies* and the underlying themes within it.

I feel this lesson demonstrates my understanding of content by utilizing various resources, and my pedagogy to ensure students better understand important aspects of primary texts being analyzed in class. The first picture below is an example of a student's pamphlet, and the second picture provides a glimpse of the layout of the room when students were teaching each other the book.

