



Parent Education Night  
Classical Education  
10 November 2009

# Thought

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“Society is in crisis, [I.A.] Richards argues, because historical change, and scientific discovery in particular, has outstripped and devalued the traditional mythologies by which men and women have lived.”  
(Eagleton, 39)

Eagleton, Terry. Literary Theory: An Introduction. 2nd edition.  
Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1996.



# Agenda

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- Introduction/Vocabulary
- Sample Lesson
- Q&A



# Introduction/Vocabulary

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- Classical
  - Medieval, primary source-based, systematic, spiraling, history-centered
- Core Principles
  - Language-centered
  - Integrated and highlighted character education



# Introduction/Vocabulary

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- Trivium
  - “three roads/ways”
    - Grammar (Poll-Parrot (Sayers))
    - Logic/dialectic (Pert (Sayers))
    - Rhetoric (Poetic (Sayers))
- Quadrivium
  - Astronomy, Arithmetic, Geometry, and Music



# Introduction/Vocabulary

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- Common Terms
  - Didactic
  - Coaching
  - Socratic
  
- Greek Root
  - *idea, dideos, video*



# Introduction/Vocabulary

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Which other words/vocabulary do you hear floating around the school?



# Lesson-Grammar Stage

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- Foci
  - Vocabulary
  - Technical vocabulary
  - Technical skills
  - Vocal exercises



# Lesson-Grammar Stage

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## Shakespeare's Sonnet 29

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,  
I all alone beweep my outcast state  
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries  
And look upon myself and curse my fate.

Wishing me like to one more rich in hope

(5)

Featured like him, like him with friends possess'd  
Desiring this man's art and that man's scope  
With what I most enjoy contented least;

Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising

Haply I think on thee, and then my state

(10)

Like to the lark at break of day arising

From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate

For thy sweet love remember'd such wealth brings

That then I scorn to change my state with kings.



# Lesson-Grammar Stage

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- Vocabulary
  - “beweep” (2); “bootless” (3); “possess’d” (6); “art” (7); “scope” (7); “haply” (10); “lark” (11);
- Technical Vocabulary
  - English/Shakespearean v Italian/Petrarchan sonnet
  - Iambic pentameter (meter, foot)
  - Rhyme scheme
  - quatrain; couplet



# Lesson-Grammar Stage

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- Technical Skills
  - Scanning lines
  - Exercise
- Vocal exercises
  - Repeat rhythm (drum-beat)
  - Repeat rhyme scheme



# Lesson-Logic Stage

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- Foci
  - Structural connections
  - Linguistic connections
  - Virtues within the text



# Lesson-Logic Stage

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- Structural Connections
  - connections between quatrains
  - turn in the poem
  
- Linguistic Connections
  - themes emerging from language (register)
  - implications of those themes



# Lesson-Logic Stage

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- Virtues within the text
  - What is valued within the poem? How?
  - Do you see any of the four virtues at work:
    - Fortitude
    - Temperance
    - Justice
    - Prudence



# Lesson-Rhetoric Stage

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- Foci
  - Answering questions



# Lesson-Rhetoric Stage

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- Which questions is the speaker attempting to answer?



# Lesson-Rhetoric Stage

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- Do you agree with his answer?
- Why or why not?



# Resources

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- Dorothy Sayers' essay, "The Lost Tools of Learning"
- *The Well-Trained Mind*
  - resource for building a home-school based on the classical model
- *Designing your Own Classical Curriculum* by Laura Berquist
  - more religious and intellectually rigorous exploration of the classical model
- *Classical Education* by Gene Veith and Andrew Kern
- *Norms and Nobility* by David Hicks
- *The Abolition of Man* by C.S. Lewis
  - although it is not directly about classical education, it speaks to the need for it



# Questions?

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QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

