

In the Mind's Eye

Age: Adult

Objectives: Students will be able to...

- Analyze independent feelings towards wolves.

Materials

- Wolf howling recording (check online)
- Copy of written prompts

Background:

It is amazing how our imagination carries us through all sorts of things in our lives. The imagination has created evil, human-devouring wolf stories that have been written of, tales that have been told about, and pictures that have been drawn of. It is true we fear what we don't understand and our imagination plays on those fears. To read some of the stories written over centuries about the wolf, analogies have been drawn between the wolf and darkness of Satan. These depiction lead to the extirpation of the wolf in much of the world.

Before you start:

Learn a bit about wolves, invite TWA in for a presentation.

Activity:

1. Have everyone get in a comfortable position. This may be laying down, resting your head or sitting. Have everyone close their eyes and turn down the lights.
2. Talk the students into a relaxed, feeling and then pause or play some soothing music. Let the quiet move the students into a place in their minds. Begin to read one of the prompts (see below). Pause when finished and play the wolf howling sounds.
3. Have students' journal, about the introduction by continuing the story.
4. Ask everyone to get in small groups and have a few people share.
5. When finished, have students share his/her writing and compare it with the perceptions of the wolf. Discuss ways in which literature has shaped our attitudes and perceptions.
 - a. Why do you suppose people have personified the wolf as evil?
 - b. From where do you think you learned your attitude towards the wolf?

Produced Original by Timber Wolf Alliance and Ottawa National Forest.

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Wolf Prompts

Prompt 1:

It is a small farm probably a total of 100 acres. The barns are old but the farmer makes sure his animals are well taken care of. He lives alone in a tiny house. Through the window, the walls can be seen to be dressed in tar paper and simply fixings of a calendar and a trout picture. It is simple, he is simple, his farm is simple. The entire acreage stands along the edge of the northern woods. AN evergreen stand of black spruce and pine dotted with maples hangs low giving the appearance a deep, dark, never-ending-never-coming out feeling. The colors of green are rich with hues of varying lusters. The farmer keeps cows, chickens, and sheep. He says he found one lamb dead at the edge of his pasture. It had been killed by some wild critter, a wolf, he suspects.

Prompt 2:

The summer dusk has settled and the early signs of autumn hang in the warm breeze. The buzz of insects begins. The woods are dark yet full of life. It is still except for the hint of breeze. I hear my heart beat, ba-boom, ba-boom, ba-boom. I am ever watchful of all I see and I strain my ears to hear distant sounds. I walk along a path used occasionally by hunters and often used by deer and other mammals. The roots from large towering trees grab at my toes as I fumble along the trail. I focus on the path fearing I will trip and fall when I suddenly stop. I feel something, yet nothing is actually touching me. Something is watching me, watching every move I make. I pause, look up and notice a shadow ahead of me. The shadow is still...