

Fostering Empathetic Listening: Integrative Storytelling in the Writing Classroom

© Christopher Worthman

DePaul University

Abstract

This article describes aspects of a pedagogy of listening called *empathetic listening*. Drawing on a short story by Anton Chekhov and the writings of M.M. Bakhtin, I not only suggest the importance of listening as a pedagogical tool for language and literacy development but also introduce the concept of empathetic listening as a curricular goal. I posit that having opportunities to listen and respond to others' experience and to published text foster language and literacy development. I present and discuss examples of the pedagogy in practice, drawing on my teaching middle grades English learners.

Keywords: Listening, literacy development, empathetic listening, Bakhtin, pedagogy