The Value of the Visual

Promoting visual literacy in the classroom.

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The world’s most recognisable image?
Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection portrays the relative size of countries and continents more accurately.
Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection #2

The Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection

This is a map of the Hobo-Dyer Equal Area Projection. This projection is one of the Equal Area projections, which maintains equal area. It is a conformal projection, meaning that it preserves shape. The projection is useful for comparing areas and is particularly suited to regions with large areas. The map is divided into two hemispheres, with the equator running through the middle. The continents are shown in their correct relative sizes and shapes, which is a key feature of equal area projections. The projection is particularly useful for comparing the sizes of different countries and regions.
The Happy Venture Readers
Dick and Dora, Nip and Fluff - 1958

Fluff is a big cat.
She has a big basket.
Dick will bring the basket for Fluff.
It is by the tree.
Fluff runs to the basket and sits in it.

Here is a little kitten.
It is Fluff’s kitten.
The little kitten can run and play.
She has a ball.
She will play with Fluff and the dog.
Fun with Dick and Jane

Jane said, “Run, run.
Run, Dick, run.
Run and see.”
Think about these

Look at the following images carefully …

What is happening, who is involved and tell their story?
What are the visual clues?

The hand of an Ugandan Boy held by a missionary.

A nine year old girl flees from a village in Vietnam after a napalm bomb was dropped.

Nail scratches of the victims inside an Auschwitz gas chamber.

A child hears for the first time after a doctor places an earpiece in his left ear.
ART is …

• Art is what you can get away with. Andy Warhol 1928-87

• An artist is always out of step with the time. He has to be. Orson Wells 1915-85

• Art is not a copy of the real world; one of the damn things is enough. Virginia Woolf 1882-1941
The classic debate between art and pornography

Norman Lindsay
*Incantation*
Oil on Canvas 1940

Brett Whiteley
*Nude, Bali*
Ink on Cotton 1980
The classic debate between art and blasphemy

ONE of the few, unintended benefits of the Congressional outrage against Andres Serrano is that it has brought widespread attention to a good artist. His photographs are indeed provocative. They are also serious art.

Adam Disconnected
Anonymous
How does art help us see the world through new eyes?

Brett Whiteley, _Self portrait in the studio_, oil, collage, hair on canvas, Collection of the Art Gallery of New South Wales
How is art the visual language of emotion?

*Blind man in Belsen* - Alan Moore (b. 1914)
How does art ‘civilize’ humanity?

Portrait of Countess Karoly, 1865, Gustave Courbet (1819-1877)
What can we learn from historical art?

Antony and Cleopatra by Giambattista Tiepolo
Can an artist go ‘too far’?

Can a piece of art go ‘too far’?

1/2 – Zhang Huan

Zhang Huan - Family Tree, 2000
colour photograph of performance, Amherst, NY
Collection of Larry Walsh
Can art get ‘out of control’?

Tracey Emin, *My Bed*. Installation
So …

• What is the ‘value’ of the visual?

• How can the visual be used as a launching pad for literacy development and social understanding?

• What texts are already available for us to use in this instance?
The art of story telling …
Kamiku Ara (Grandmothers Story) Trephina Sultan
Minyma Tjukurrpa by Marlene Young Nungurrayi
My Country by Damien and Yilpi Marks
Visual Literacy

Promotion of …

* Critical Literacy
* Engagement
* Alternative Views
* Social Justice
Creating ‘space’ in the text (where picture and word are juggled to create the perfect combination for storytelling) can help create a different narrative for different readers.

End papers and front covers are important contributors to the narrative and creators’ intention. Nothing can be overlooked as the work is an entire unit of literature not just a series of images with some words.

Often these sections can highlight historical conflict and resolution.

The Arrival
by Shaun Tan

The Island
by Armin Greder

Requiem for a Beast
by Matt Ottley
Shaun Tan evokes universal aspects of an immigrant's experience through a singular work of the imagination.

He does so via brilliantly clear and mesmerizing images and because the main character can't communicate to those around him, this graphic novel forgoes the written word.

While readers experience the main character's isolation and trepidation, we also share his ultimate joys.
A genre crossover work, consisting of conventional prose text, visual text and accompanying music.

“'Foul' kids' book Requiem for a Beast one of the century's best!” Rosemary Sorensen in The Australian August 23, 2008

The Island by Armin Greder

The story of a naked stranger washed up on an island inhabited by grotesque caricatures of human example.

The very survival of this island seems founded on the outdated premise of isolationism and protectionism.

Consider:

- Nakedness
- Shadowing
- Enforced isolation
- Space
The glaringly obvious prejudices and resulting fears of the locals encourage student reaction.

Consider:

- Shading and colours
- Actual image
- Non-verbal communication
The more terrified the villagers become, the more devilishly the man is depicted.

Consider:

- Positioning and body posture of the character
- Hidden agendas
The focus of the islanders’ hatred goes …

From this …

To this …
Concerns about immigration become serious discussion points but students also begin to understand the sophisticated social and moral fears of those who have journeyed to another land.

Consider:

• Juxtaposition of man and nature
• Created context
• Isolationism and protectionism
Window
by Jeannie Baker

A ground-breaking, wordless text that provides the reader with a deeper understanding of how growth and development affects the world in which we live.
Revealing the stories of ‘others’ through classroom implementation and extension

- Understanding the issues involved
- Developing coherent arguments
- Analysing images
- Exploring the experiences of others
Understand the Issues
Developing coherent arguments

Supporters Argue …
We have a moral obligation to accept as many refugees as possible. People from the Middle East and Africa are fleeing war, persecution and life-threatening danger. These people desperate enough to risk their lives to reach safety.

Opponents Argue …
Welcoming refugees can pose security threats and will encourage more people to risk their lives at the hands of human smugglers. Also, assimilating thousands of people is not easy.
Visual Stimuli for discussion …
Visual Stimuli for discussion …
The Experiences of Others
Analysing Images
I SHOULD DO SOMETHING SO THIS HEARTBREAKING IMAGE IS NOT ON MY MONITOR...

THAT'S BETTER...

SYRIAN REFUGEES

ON HOLD MUSIC
References

Abdel-Fattah, R. (1900). *Does my Head Look big in this?* Australia: Pan Macmillan.