

Lesson title: Juxtaposition

Skill focus: Understanding literary devices

Length: Whole lesson

Year levels: Years 8-10

Instructions:

The short film *Heavyweight* - about a boxer and a butterfly - is a simple and elegant example of juxtaposition, a basic literary device used in many texts we study with students in many different ways. Once students clearly know what it is they can seek out examples of their own.

Before we get to the short film, though, it'd be good if we could get our students thinking about what juxtaposition means. Attached is a collection of a juxtaposed images. Give them to your students and tell them that each of these images is an example of juxtaposition. What do they think juxtaposition means? Get them to discuss with each other, define it in their own words and then talk about it as a class.

But more to the point - what is the purpose of juxtaposition? As a pair, get students to focus on one of the images in the handout and to finish this prompt: *The juxtaposition of....and....causes us to think about/see/feel/consider....On one hand the image of.....represents.....But with the contrasting picture of.... we associate.....*

After this, get each student to write a word down which best describes the impact of juxtaposition. Give each student a post-it-note to stick this word on the whiteboard and then review the words as a class to reach consensus about the impact of juxtaposition.

After all the pre-teaching we can finally get to the damn film. After watching it, ask students to consider the impact of juxtaposition in the text (watch it on Vimeo here: <http://vimeo.com/68952448>). Students should use the same prompt formula from above to begin some writing about the short film.