

Giving Oral Reports is the Best Way to Learn

When I taught in the public schools, I didn't go by how they wanted me to teach. I taught the way I felt was the best, which was to get them to respond. I did not do it with a written test, but a verbal test. They spoke what they learned. Then everyone who heard them was also learning what they learned. Each one had a portion to make an oral report on. By the time the year was over they were so thankful and appreciative. All the people who were so intimidated that they couldn't even speak, and were so embarrassed to get up in front of the class, had become marvelous speakers.

They went on into the twelfth grade and excelled, just because they were able to express themselves, not just by written tests of multiple choice. That is a very idiotic way of giving a test, because they don't need to know anything, but just by guessing they can pass it.

We want all of our children to "pass" the test, and that no one would feel as if they're not smart. They used to make the slow learners wear a "dunce hat" and stand in the corner. They'd feel horrible. Slow learners are just late bloomers, and late bloomers usually bloom later on even greater than the fast learners and the early bloomers. We give everyone an opportunity.

Giving oral reports is the best way to learn. We all should have been brought up on oral reports. Everyone should be giving them, in every tribe; and if they're not, they're rebellious. They'll have to answer for it, because they're not doing the children justice.

It's good that we can respond after a teaching, giving the oral report of response. It's very good. We all have opportunity to hear and listen and respond to what we've heard. Then other people hear what you've learned and they learn also, whatever they didn't learn before, because no one learns everything. This is how we are supposed to be teaching. This is always going to be a part of our curriculum.