

Arts Integration and the Opportunity of Surprise

By Madeleine R. Grumet, Deborah Randolph, and Faye Stanley;

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Curriculum brings a world that is interesting, surprising, frightening, or beautiful, together with students who meet that world through sensation, thought, and emotion. The world does not come to us hermetically contained in rational categories. Our thoughts and understandings of the world are thoroughly intertwined with the sensory experiences of our bodies, our feelings and emotions, as well as our habits of perception and applications of logic and analysis. Whether we dwell under an endless sky or among angled and glinting towers, whether we find our rhythm in the ocean's pulse or the surge of traffic, the way we know ourselves in the world is under and above and around language. Though exiled from schooling, the physicality, sensuousness, and expressivity that we cede to rational thought, never disappear. They thrive in other places: in love, in dreams, in imagination. In arts integration we gather them up again and bring them back to the classroom.