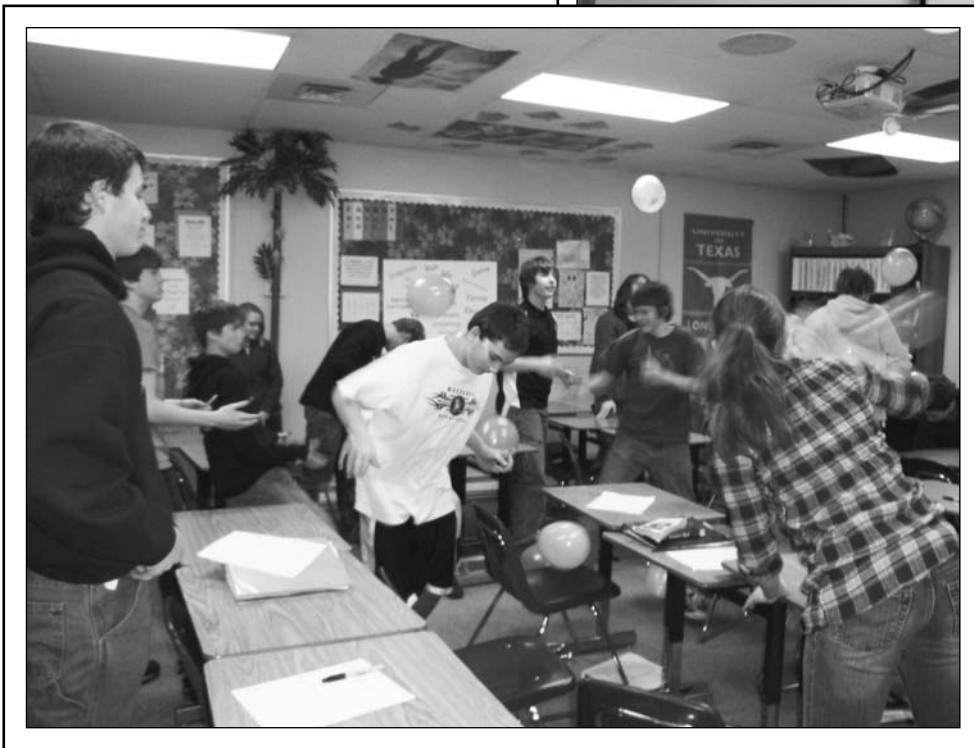
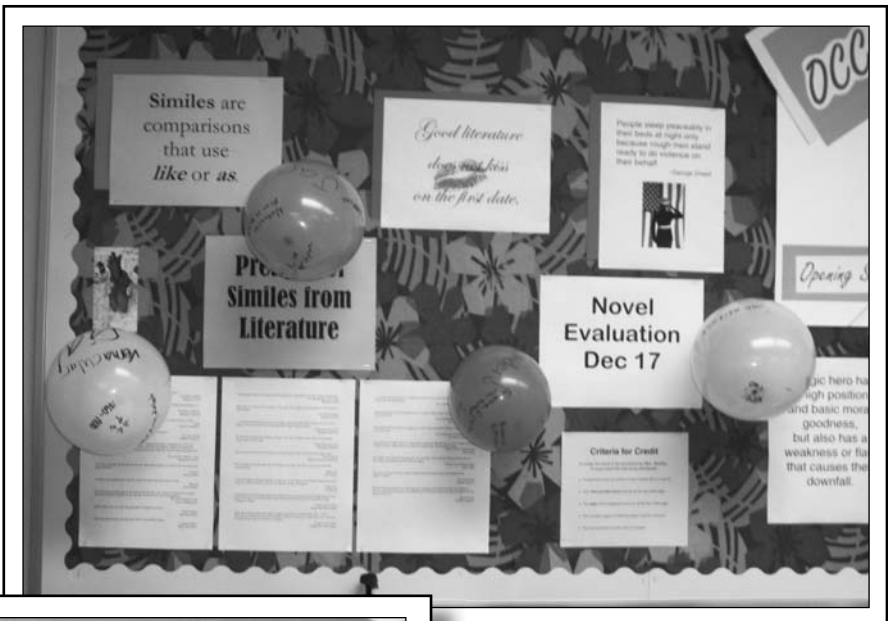


BALLOON TOSS

Juniors used a balloon strategy with short story genres. Each color of balloon was a different genre, (naturalism, romanticism, etc) and when the music stopped, whatever color balloon they grabbed, they had to write information, descriptions, authors, titles, etc for that genre. Each time the music stopped, they had to have a different color balloon. There were support stations around the room, plus access to their own notes.

When we finished, I kept the balloons, tacked them to a support wall, and left them up during the assessment the following week.



Freshmen used the same strategy after reading *Of Mice and Men*. Each color of balloon was a different character. When students got the balloons, they wrote complete sentences of description and character analysis. At the end of the activity, everyone chose a balloon and then wrote a complete character description paragraph, using the notes and ideas on the balloon. Mr. Eggers, our principal, heard the fun and joined in the game!

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