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Ensino Fundamental

Conteúdo Estruturante: O discurso enquanto prática social

Conteúdo Específico: Gêneros textuais – Carta de pedido de conselho

Título: TEEN X WORLD

Relações interdisciplinares: Ciências e Português

WHO IS BEHIND THE MIRROR?



(fonte: arquivo pessoal)

You must have realized some changes in your body and your mind! Think about them and let's discover who is behind the mirror!

You must already lived a situation in which your mother has shouted: "Are you crazy? You are just a child!" And right after that she said: "It's time to have a little more responsibility because you are not a child any more!" In these situations certainly it is possible you have wished to disappear...

Do you think people (especially your parents) don't understand you? But are you really sure that you both speak the same language? Or are you speaking a different one?

Take it easy! Let's go ahead and find out what is happening to you! Read the poem below and discuss it with your classmates and your teacher.

What kind of age is this?

Why do I feel all this?

Why don't I know what to do?

Why don't I know why I do
the things that I do?

Why don't I know who to trust?

Why do I trust friends over family?

By Anup R

<http://anupr.blogspot.com/2005/12/poem-adolescence.html>

TASK 1 – Thinking over

- a) Have you ever felt like the writer?
- b) Who do you think the writer is? How old is he/she?
- c) Do you trust in friends over family too? Why?
- d) Give a title to the poem.
- e) Go to the site and read the entire poem, see the title and discuss your titles with your colleagues and the teacher.
- f) Write your own poem in Portuguese. Work in pairs or small groups and display your poems in the classroom.

PHYSICAL CHANGES

What is happening to my body?

Puberty is your body physically changing from a child to an adult. It is how your body matures to become ready to be sexually active and produce children.

Puberty is the stage of the lifespan in which a child develops secondary sex characteristics (for example a deeper voice or larger adam's apple in boys, and development of breasts and hips in girls) as his or her hormonal balance shifts strongly towards an adult state.

It is different for everyone. Your changes are going to be different from the changes in your best friends, but don't let it worry you - each of our bodies takes its own natural course. It might help you get to know your own body by keeping an eye on the changes that are happening. If you want, check yourself out in front of a mirror. It may seem a little silly, but it's your body and you're going to have it for a long time.

Puberty causes all kinds of changes in your body. Your skin and scalp may suddenly get oily very easily. Every day it seems you have new hair growing in different places. At times, you seem to sweat for no reason — and you may notice there are odors where you never had them before.

Being a teenager is a uniquely human phenomenon and most of us are prepared to deal with the obvious physical changes of growing up. Girls expect their

breasts to grow and guys expect to become more muscular. But the body often goes through *other* changes before, during, and after puberty — and sometimes these changes can be very different from the ones we expect to happen. For example, both girls and guys may notice themselves growing in unfamiliar places, such as the butt or belly. Or they may grow taller and skinnier.

What happens to people physically during puberty can influence how they feel about their bodies and themselves for a long time to come.

Extracted from: <http://www.sexualityandu.ca/teens/life-1-1.aspx>

SEXUALITY



http://www.diaadiaeducacao.pr.gov.br/portals/bancoimagem/frm_buscarImagens2.php

Adolescent sexuality refers to sexual feelings, behavior and development in adolescents and is a stage of human sexuality. Sexuality and sexual desire usually begins to appear along with the onset of puberty.

The expression of sexual desire among adolescents might be influenced by family values and influences, the culture and religion they have grown up in social engineering, social control, taboos, and other kinds of social mores.

The risks of adolescent sexual activity are sometimes associated with: emotional distress (fear of abuse or exploitation), sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV/AIDS) and pregnancy through failure or non-use of birth control.

Extracted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolescent_sexuality

TASK 2 – Discussing

- a) Em grupos discuta com seus colegas e liste quais as principais mudanças físicas e psicológicas que acontecem durante a puberdade na vida de um adolescente.
- b) Existe uma idade ideal para o início da atividade sexual? Apenas o corpo precisa estar preparado para isso? Comentem.

c) Iniciar uma vida sexual ativa precocemente pode ter algum risco ou consequência? Qual (is)?

d) O que o grupo sabe sobre os contraceptivos e as DSTs?

Para aprofundar os conhecimentos e ter informações confiáveis visitem a biblioteca ou o laboratório de informática.

REFLECTING ABOUT SOME ADOLESCENCE PROBLEMS

Adolescent psychology is associated with the notable changes in the behavior and characteristics of adolescents, cognitive, emotional and attitudinal changes take place during this period, which can be a cause of some conflicts. It is frequently notable that they start giving more importance to their friends, their peer group, and less to their parents. Consequently adolescents are known to be moody, insecure, argumentative, impulsive, impressionable, reckless and rebellious. In the search for a unique social identity for themselves, adolescents are frequently confused between the 'right' and 'wrong.' It is a period of "Storm and Stress".

Extracted from: <http://www.partnershipinparenting.com/2007/06/10/teens-crisis-and-grief-help/>

There are different problems at home and at school. These problems are very hard to be faced and sometimes you think that you are the biggest sufferer in the world.

Now we are going to talk about an interesting movie, which is about a boy who suffers at home and at school and his troubles can be similar to many of the troubles you and your friends might have:

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

This film is based on a book with the same title written by Katherine Paterson. It was first published in 1977, and won the Newbery Medal in 1978. Bridge to Terabithia is a work of children's literature and it is studied in English classes in Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, Panama and the United States. It was adapted twice to the movies; first in 1985 and now in 2007.

Watch the film and try to discover what are the main differences between the book and the movie.

In the film, Jess is 12 years old; he is shy and studies in 5th grade. He tries to protrude at school in a race competition, on the school's athletics day but a girl named Leslie arrives at school and although the race is only for boys she is the winner. Jess is, at first, quite sour about this and wants any talk to her. Leslie is persistent and on her way home in the bus she offers him a gum and after this they start a beautiful and strong friendship.

At home, Jess and his family face serious financial troubles. Besides he has four sisters, two older than he is and two younger. But Leslie will be his neighbor and the two friends venture into the woods, where they swing across a creek on a rope and find an abandoned tree house on the other side. They invent a new world they call Terabithia, and it comes to life through their eyes as they explore it together. In the "real" world, Jess and Leslie deal with some troubles and they base the threatening creatures of Terabithia on the people who give them a hard time at school.

Early one morning, Ms Edmunds, Jess' music teacher, calls to invite him on a field trip to an art museum. Jess has to ask his mother for permission and she is half-asleep and doesn't give him a clear answer, but he is so excited that he assumes she agreed. He has an unspoken crush on the beautiful and personable teacher and Jess does not want to share the trip with Leslie.

When he returns home, his parents are worried sick, without knowing where he has been all day.

He hears the terrible news about the day. The boy suffers much grief and guilt. He receives help to support these feelings. His family and his great capacity of imagination allow him to live a happy life again and forever.

Let's watch the film now? But if you want to know more about the book or the film go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridge_to_Terabithia

TASK 3 – Talking about the film

In small groups, discuss the questions below, write your answers and then read to the whole class:

- a) Como você descreveria Jess e Leslie? Use três adjetivos no mínimo.
- b) Quais são os problemas vividos por Jess em casa? E na escola?

- c) Por que as estranhas criaturas do reino de Terabítia tinham semelhança com colegas da escola? Como os dois amigos enfrentavam esses adversários nos dois ambientes?
- d) Em quais momentos Jess aparece feliz no filme e por quê?
- e) Como Jess se comportava em casa? E na escola?
- f) Você já enfrentou problemas semelhantes aos de Leslie e Jess? Como conseguiu lidar com eles? Já os superou?
- g) Leia o diálogo entre Jess e a professora e responda:
Jess: Leslie Burke told me to keep my mind wide open.
Ms. Edmonds: And she's right. With a mind like yours wide open, you could create a whole new world.
- h) O que seria manter a mente aberta para você? Você concorda com a afirmação da professora?
- i) Quais atividades que realmente lhe proporcionam alegria ao realizá-las?

Improving your knowledge

Jess e Leslie são vítimas do “*Bullying*”. Você sabe o que é o *bullying*? *Bullying* é um termo de origem inglesa utilizado para descrever atos de violência física ou psicológica intencionais e repetidos, praticados por um indivíduo (*bully*) ou grupo de indivíduos com o objetivo de intimidar ou agredir outro indivíduo (ou grupo de indivíduos) incapaz/es de se defender. A palavra “*Bully*” significa “valentão”, o autor das agressões.

A vítima, ou alvo é a que sofre os efeitos delas. Também existem as vítimas/agressoras, ou autores/alvos, que em determinados momentos cometem agressões, porém também são vítimas de *bullying* pela turma.

Por não existir uma palavra na língua portuguesa capaz de expressar todas as situações de *bullying* possíveis, o quadro, a seguir, relaciona algumas ações que podem estar presentes:

- Colocar apelidos, ofender, intimidar, perseguir, discriminar, zoar, sacanear, assediar, aterrorizar, amedrontar, humilhar, excluir, isolar, fazer sofrer, ignorar, tyrannizar, dominar, agredir, bater, chutar, empurrar, roubar, quebrar pertences.

You can read more about this subject in the site below:

<http://www.bullying.com.br/BConceituacao21.htm>

TASK 4 – Seminar

Let's make a seminar? Follow the steps below:

1 – Divide the class into groups of 5;

2 – Each group chooses a topic below and does a research about it. You can use books, magazines, newspapers and the internet (if it is possible):

- *Bullying's* characterization
- Kinds of bullying
- *Bullying's* author, victims and testimonies.
- Places where bullying happens and who are the people involved
- Causes and consequences of bullying
- Possible solutions

3 – You should present what you have researched to the class and answer possible questions that the others groups may ask.

4 – Each group can organize a small play, or a parody involving a bullying situation and your specific topic to present to the class before you talk to your classmates about your topic.

TASK 5 – Discussing the film

Agora que você já sabe um pouco mais sobre o *bullying*, vamos voltar ao filme:

- a) Como Janice praticava o *bullying*, na escola? Os personagens principais do filme eram suas únicas vítimas?
- b) De acordo com o que você aprendeu o que poderia justificar o comportamento de Janice? Explique.
- c) Na sua classe e/ou escola o *bullying* é praticado? Comente.
- d) Quais atitudes deveriam ser tomadas pela vítima do *bullying*? E as testemunhas?
- e) Quando Janice passou a ser vítima do *bullying*, Leslie foi à única que se aproximou dela a pedido de Jess e ela pediu-lhe um conselho. Você acha que os conselhos de Leslie foram bons? Se você estivesse no lugar de Leslie que conselhos você lhe daria?

- f) Você já pediu conselhos a alguém? Você seguiu o conselho dado?
- g) Há um ditado popular que diz: “Se conselho fosse bom ninguém daria, venderia”. Você concorda? Justifique.

Have you ever felt like asking someone something but did not have courage to do so? What did you do then? When you are in doubts for whom do you look for?

There are some teenagers who do not feel comfortable to ask advice to their friends or family and they do this by sending letters to some magazines asking for some help. They are advice letters. Let's study them now and learn a little bit about this textual genre.

Read the texts below and see what some teenagers do:

Text 1:

Dear Carol,

Last night, my friend called me and asked if I liked this one girl. I told her what I thought of the girl, and it ended up that it was a three-way call. The other girl was on the phone and heard everything! What should I do?

- Clueless

Text 2:

Dear Carol,

My friend is always saying things that make me feel dumb, and sometimes she even hits me. She tells me I should hit her back or say something, but I don't want to.

- Hurt

Text 3:

Dear Carol,

My sister is exceptional at everything she does, and my mom expects me to be the same way. Nothing I do seems good enough. Ever since my sister left for college, it's gotten even worse. What can I do to help my mom accept me as I am?

Feeling Unloved,

TASK 6 – knowing better a genre

- a) What kind of texts do you think these ones are?

- b) What are the main objectives of these texts?
- c) Why in every text did the writer use the expression: Dear Carol? Who do you think she/it is?
- d) What are the contents of these texts?
- e) In what place do you think this kind of text is vehicled?
- f) How old do you think the writers are?
- g) How did they identify? Do you think they use their real names? Why?

Now read another letter:

Dear Alice,

It seems as if anything I do is not enough for my dad. I don't get in any trouble at all, I'm on the honor roll, I don't go out, I obey him, I don't talk back, I clean his shoes, I heat up his car, I cook for him, also. I do all this and it's still not enough, He never smiles and he never appreciates anything.

TASK 7 – Let's reflect about the text

- a) Do you think the writer is a girl or a boy? Why?
- b) She or he complains about a person, what is the relationship between the writer and this person?
- c) She or he is unhappy about the behavior of this person. Why?
- d) Do you know anybody who has a similar problem?
- e) What advice would you give to the writer?
- f) This text has no identification, how would you sign this letter? (Use a pseudonym)
- g) Complete the chart below writing some information from the text:

author	
addressee	
Objective	
Content	
Social place of production	
When the text was produced	
Medium	

ADVICE LETTERS



(Fonte: arquivo pessoal)

In this text the author writes always asking for some advices, commonly are people that need some help to solve any difficult trouble. Usually, these people do not have a person to talk or they have but do not want to talk to an acquaintance, therefore, they use some spaces in the communication vehicles to ask for some help.

Sometimes only a specialized person like a psychologist reads the letter and writes trying help and there are some situations when the readers in general can do that. As for textual organization we can find in an advice letter: at the beginning, an initial greeting, after that, an exposition about the trouble, next the person asks for advice and finally a pseudonym. But the fact that one of these parts is missing does not disqualify the textual genre.

Choose the letter 1 or 2, read it again and then complete the chart below about the letter:

INITIAL GREETING	
PROBLEM	
REQUEST OF ADVICE	
PSEUDONYM	

Think about this:

If you had some troubles or just some doubts about something would you use this resource? Why?

Now you are going to read other letter and you will analyze the advice that the person in trouble received:

TEXT 4:

Dear Carol,

My BF and I have been going out for a month, and we haven't even held hands. I want to take it slow, but all my friends are already kissing their BFs. He and I talk a lot, but I don't know if I should make the first move.

Not Sure

Dear Not Sure,

If you want to reach for his hand, go ahead. But since you're not sure, why pressure yourself? It really is fine to relax instead of rush. And it's smart not to let your friends set the pace for your romantic life. It's also smart to take the time to get to know each other. Kisses mean more when you wait for them.

Source: Girls' Life, August-Sept, 2004 by Carol Weston

TASK 8 – Analysing

- Do you agree with the advice given by Carol?
- What would you advise “Not Sure” to do ?

TASK 9 – Writing

Choose one of the options below:

- Write an advice letter to Dear Carol or another Brazilian Magazine (the topic can be real or invented). Talk to your teacher about the possibility of sending this letter or change with other classrooms and you are going to write advice for them and they for you.
- Choose one of the letters that were studied and write an advice, as if you were Dear Carol.

TEXT 6



Source: Free Metro Newspaper – Tuesday, February 1, 2005
Nemi (c) lise Myre / distr. lasse@strandcomics.no

TASK 10 - Comprehending the text

- a) Who do you think Nemi is talking to?
- b) Is the cartoon humorous?
- c) How would you describe Nemi?
- d) What is the weather like? What do you think Nemi would like to do in this day?
- e) Why is the shape of the ballon different in the first square?
- f) Teenagers are considered lazy people. Do you agree with this? Is it a kind of stereotype?
- g) Do you think that teenagers should have some obligations? Why?
- h) What kind of obligations do you think teenagers could have?
- i) Do you normally help your parents? In what kind of activities?

TASK 11 – Making an interview

- a) You and a friend choose a person to interview. The person must be an adult (a teacher or another person from your school, a neighbor, a relative...) You are going to ask them some questions and find out what they think about teenagers in general, or how they see these people nowadays.

Here are some questions. You can change, eliminate some of them or make others:

- What do you think about teenagers nowadays?
 - Do you think they are “aborrecentes”?
 - Use four adjectives to describe teenagers in general?
 - If you could give an advice for a teenager what would you say?
- b) After you do the interview you and your friend should analyze the answers. Do you agree with them? Why? Why not?
 - c) You can collect pictures from magazines, newspaper or drawings and make a poster with your conclusions trying to show the main differences between how you see yourselves and how the adults do it. Take to the class and show it for everybody. Talk to your colleagues and your teacher about the findings and conclusions.

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Filme

Bridge to Terabithia (2007, EUA, direção: Gabor Csupo) Filme de aventura que aborda os valores da amizade, da família e o poder da imaginação.

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