

Peer reviewing a seminar: *The Bonesetter's Daughter* - Resource overview

Collection: Small group teaching

Learning outcomes

To acquire a degree of attunement to the linguistic and social process of a seminar in action. To be able as a tutor to respond simultaneously to multiple levels of the process, while holding on to confidence in one's own role.

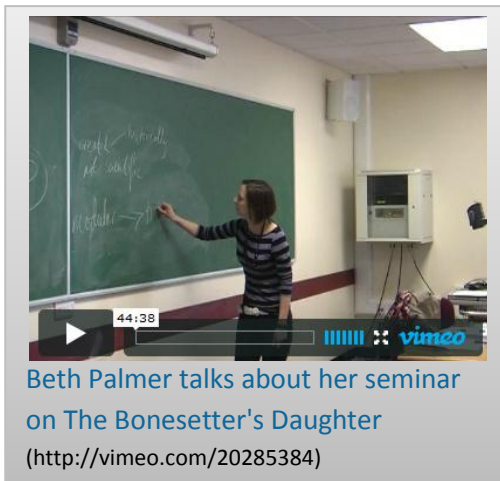
Overview

This resource, which parallels the discussion of the *Oliver Twist seminar*, is also based on the principle of making use of a privileged space of detachment. A video is never going to be the same as a 'real' space. And no one seminar can be picked out as unambiguously a model to follow. But the video permits you a degree of distance while being adjacent to your own experience. Generously observed, it permits attention to linguistic and conceptual process, and a degree of reflection therefore on the pedagogic and often spur of the moment decisions taken by tutors - and students - in the course of what might (if it happened to you) be an unremarkable session.



This video was made during a [seminar on Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*](#) at the University of Surrey. This is the second week of a 15 week level 2 module on 'Contemporary literature in a global context 2'. The seminar leader is Dr Beth Palmer.

We are very grateful to our colleagues for allowing us into their classrooms and lecture halls to observe their teaching. As you work with these examples of teaching please keep your commentary focused on pedagogy and refrain from criticisms that would be unhelpful or unkind in a face-to-face peer review or similar situation.



In a subsequent video, [Dr Tate talks about the seminar](#).

Activities in this resource

These might be carried out individually, or if appropriate in pairs or small groups. If the latter we recommend some division of labour: that each person agrees to make a list of items under a particular heading for subsequent sharing in the group. Both invite attention to the linguistic and discursive processes of the class: the negotiation of authority, footing, and knowledge as a collective process.

- [A complex dialogue](#)
- [Negotiated authority](#)



2 | This resource is part of a set of professional development resources for Higher Education English (including English Literature, English Language & Creative Writing) called 'The Pool'. The resources were developed by the English Subject Centre in 2011 as part of a JISC/HEA Open Educational Resources (OER) Project.

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Resources in the Small group teaching collection

- Small group teaching: introduction to the collection
- Seminar design: resource overview
 - Seminar design: individual activity
 - Seminar design: group activity
- Peer reviewing a seminar: Oliver Twist : resource overview
 - Peer review: individual activity
 - Adjusting the level
- **Peer reviewing a seminar: The Bonesetter's Daughter : resource overview (*you are here)**
 - A complex dialogue
 - Negotiated authority
- Thinking about seminars: resource overview
 - Relevance and red herrings
 - Weighing up the elements
- Nightmare scenarios: resource overview
 - Facing up to nightmares: group activity
 - Comparing notes
- Transformative writing: resource overview
 - Transformations: individual activity
 - Transformations: group activity



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