

The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method Relates Self, Subject, World— & *STUDENTS LEARN!*

THE AESTHETIC REALISM TEACHING METHOD is the solution to the turmoil in America's schools—the painful inability to read, the fury and dullness in classrooms, the desperation of teachers! It answers magnificently the question asked by so many young people: “*What do I have to learn this for?!*” In an urgently needed public seminar, New York City teachers will describe, with examples from their classrooms, the educational method that successfully brings forth students' ability to learn—including in economically ravaged neighborhoods.

For many years, teachers who use this method have succeeded powerfully in having students see an exciting, surprising relation among the *subjects* they study, the *world* they meet each day, and their own turbulent selves.

THE BASIS

This method is based on principles stated by the American educator Eli Siegel, founder of Aesthetic Realism:

1. “*The purpose of all education*”—and the deepest desire of everyone, a confused child in the Bronx, a harried teacher in Queens—is “*to like the world through knowing it.*”
2. The chief interference with learning is *contempt*—the “*disposition in every person to think we will be for ourselves by making less of the outside world.*”

Contempt for what is different from oneself is also the cause of the bullying and assaults that make America's schools dangerous.

Young people are justly angry at the horrible economic inequity in our rich land; they see their parents desperately worried about having a job and money. Meanwhile, without knowing it, students can use the ugliness and injustice they see, including the racism many of them endure, to be angry at the wrong things—to feel, “The world's a mess. Why should I give a damn about an

algebraic equation or what happened in ancient Greece?”

At this seminar you'll hear what opposes students' inaccurate fury and boredom and brings out their ability to learn! This groundbreaking principle is the means:

The world, art, and self explain each other: each is the aesthetic oneness of opposites.

STUDENTS LEARN

For instance, Pablo Carrera—representative of many students—frequently acted bored, had a scowl on his face, often didn't come to school. He distrusted the world outside himself and was increasingly making a closed-off world within. Then Pablo learned in his 7th grade science class, through the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method, how the human digestive system is a beautiful relation of *outside* and *inside*—the very opposites at war in him. He became eager to know more. When he and his classmates saw how foods from many different places—oranges from Florida, wheat from Kansas, milk from New Jersey—become part of their intimate selves, that what was outside of them becomes their bones, muscles, brain cells, they were *interested!* They saw that this happens in everyone, regardless of one's ethnicity. Students of Latino, Asian, and African American background looked at each other with new respect and gladly worked together on assignments. Pablo, once painfully separate and scornful of other students, now comes to school regularly: he sees he's related to everything around him, including other people.

As students meet *any* subject through the Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method, they feel, “This is about the world and it's about me!” Two results are: 1) They feel close to other people, including those of different ethnic backgrounds, and instead of wanting to look down on and even hurt others—they become kinder. And 2) they welcome learning, and learn with new energy and ease!

On November 2nd come and hear for yourself!

• SPEAKERS •

LAUREN PHILLIPS (*humanities, 6th grade, PS 184M*) ♦ ZVIA RATZ (*mathematics, MS 223*)

ROSEMARY PLUMSTEAD (*science, NYC HS retired, current teacher educator*)

PATRICIA MARTONE (*ESL, PS 134M*)

ARNOLD PEREY, Ph.D. (*instructor, The Aesthetic Realism Teaching Method*)

AESTHETIC REALISM FOUNDATION ♦ 141 GREENE ST. NYC 10012

212.777.4490
AestheticRealism.org

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