

Analysis Model Worksheet

Consider the whole product

How did the product make you feel? Appropriate for audience and place? Audience response? What worked? What needs improvement?

What is the central idea?

Does the interpretive product flow? Does it have a focus? Is it engaging and relevant? Are there additional cohesively developed or incomplete ideas?

Opportunity for connections to resource meanings:

Interpretive technique:

What tangible/intangible links was created by this technique?

Tangible: _____

Intangible meaning: _____

What response(s) does this link provoke, evoke, or inspire?

Do the responses(s) favor the intellectual, emotional, or both? _____

Suggestions for improvement?

Interpretive technique:

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Suggestions for improvement?

Overall Program Suggestions:

Compare Notes:

What do other course participants or colleagues think?

A Forest's Lesson: Nurse log is like our family, ourselves

Ann Louise Thomas

The Seattle Times, March 16, 2003

My first visit to the Hoh Rain Forest on the Olympic Peninsula was not what I expected. The air was stifling hot and the forest disappointingly dry and dusty. While I didn't experience the cool, damp, lush rain forest of my imagination, I was introduced to a wonderful phenomenon of nature: the nurse log.

I learned more about nurse logs a couple of years later during my daylong wanderings in the forest at the University of British Columbia Arboretum. I came upon a sign drawing attention to a nurse log and explaining this wonder of nature. I lost track of time as I stood there reading the words over and over:

The process of decay in a tree, from various fungi, bacteria, algae, lichens, mosses and liverworts, begins long before it becomes obvious to us; growing and dying occur together.

These last words struck a chord in me: "Growing and dying occur together." I wondered if the writer of this simple botanical description had been aware of the depth and truth and layers of meaning in those words. I mulled them over in my mind – growing and dying occur together.

It happens in a family. Some are at the beginning of their growing while others are at the dying end of life. In our family nearly every stage of life is represented. There are some young children who are clearly at the beginning of their growing. Sometimes we older ones are content to simply watch them, marveling, as if for the first time, at each milestone of growth.

Some in our family are in that childhood whirl of unselfconscious growing. Playing is their work and our delight.

Many in our family are reaching for adulthood. They feel their growing every day in longing for the future.

There are plenty of us in the middle; we're growing every day, too, but beginning to notice our dying. We wonder how growing and dying can occur together within the same person.

A few in our family are nearing the end. They're ever growing, but slowing. They appreciate the past, savor the beautiful, endure familiar pain and ponder their impending, inevitable passage through dying into wider, unimaginable living. Growing and dying occur together.

Still standing watch at the arboretum, I read on:

A rotting nurse log is ideal for growth of some seedlings because valuable nutrients are released by the organisms of decay. Eventually the nurse log fades into the forest floor, leaving little evidence that it ever existed. An arch is left under the roots of the saplings which once grew on it and only these elevated root structures speak of nurse logs long since vanished.

My mind turned immediately to my parents, those nurse logs that still support and nourish me today. I see their shape in me, and when they are gone the shape under my roots at the base of my life will speak their names.