Thesis Cartoon Lesson Plan
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This lesson is meant to be a practice in approaching a thesis more holistically.

Teacher: Find a comic book. Look through it and find interesting images that reveal a strand of a story. I primarily look for illustrations without caption because they seem to be pivotal moments in the cartoon. These moments can stand on their own because of what led up to them, and what follows. Absence of captions also allows more flexibility for the activity.

Make a few copies of each one you find so that there will be replicates

In class...

Go over BH pages 13-21

After you've thoroughly gone over what a thesis entails, pass out the illustrations without explanation and ask the students to look at their picture. What do they feel when looking at it? What is happening in the image? What supports your claim? The background? The clothes the character is wearing? What do you think led up to this moment and what will follow? Now write a thesis for this image.

Afterwards, have the students go around and share. Typically, they are surprised by the interpretation of their peers, which shows perspective and audience. You can then lead discussion and debate on why their thesis is as it is.

After this, we work on the thesis for the next paper and begin structuring outlines for where they intend to go in their essay. If there is extra time, we go on to look closely at the projector to discuss and edit (if necessary) a student’s working thesis.