

Featured Presentation

Metaphors for Teaching

Friday, November 3

1:30-2:15

Jefferson Room



Dorothy Zemach

Abstract: Teachers spend a lot of time—for instance, at conferences like this one—examining their teaching. While such reflection is valuable, sometimes it’s difficult to see that which we stare at directly. This presentation, then, invites participants to examine something in their lives that is entirely different; and through this examination to draw relevant metaphorical conclusions about teaching and learning. In their groundbreaking *Metaphors We Live By*, Philosopher Mark Johnson and linguist George Lakoff call metaphor “unavoidable, ubiquitous, and mostly unconscious,” claiming that “[w]e live our lives on the basis of inferences we derive via metaphor” (1980). To apply this, I’ll share insights gained from years of musical study and performance and show how examining and understanding this experience carries knowledge over into my linguistic and teaching work. A music student, after all, like a language student, must listen, repeat, practice patterns and drills, learn theory, rehearse alone and with others, and perform with meaning and passion in order to communicate. Musical examples will highlight the presentation.

Biography: Dorothy Zemach is a teacher trainer, author, writer, and editor. After teaching ESL for over 25 years, she now concentrates on writing materials and conducting teacher-training workshops. Her areas of specialty and interest are teaching writing, teaching reading, business English, academic English, testing, and humor. A prolific textbook author and editor, Dorothy has penned everything from the *Teddy Bear’s Magic Music teacher’s book* to the lowest and highest levels of Macmillan’s flagship course *Open Mind to English for Scammers* (self-published). In 2012 she founded a micropress, Wayzgoose Press, that publishes fiction, literary non-fiction, and ELT materials. She lives in Eugene, Oregon.

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