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# “WE’RE BORED”

## A NARRATIVE REFLECTION

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### Abstract

In this creative reflection, the author recounts a classroom experience that both challenged and enlightened her during her spring 2026 teaching internship.

**Keywords:** teacher intern, student boredom, critical feedback, teacher responsiveness

It’s 8:17 in the morning. Rain crashes against the giant windows that span the length of our classroom’s back wall. Class has barely started, and I try desperately to suppress my own stifled yawns behind my steaming coffee cup as I let you all close your choice books and get out your notes. Your participation lately has been . . . reluctant. We’re all exhausted, but I am eager to get class started. Today’s lesson should be engaging, if not fun, for all. I have a bit of hope that today’s review of the trolley problem, with a plot-relevant twist, will spur some excitement. What is it about death that gets you students talking so much?

But alas, it quickly becomes apparent that constant chattering, also a frequent issue, will not be an issue to triumph over with you all today.

“What do we remember from Scene 2?” I ask. “Feel free to use your notes!”

An eternity seems to pass as I look into the sea of your blank faces, dozens of pairs of unenthused eyes waiting for me to just give up the answer. Rain drip, drip, drips against the window, filling the silence that you all refuse to.

“Okay, review your notes with your partners!”

You are all aiming for the blue ribbon in a staring contest we did not enter, as you continue to not reach for the notes right in front of you. This isn’t just the Monday morning speaking. I give in, but not in the way you all want.

“What’s going on with you all? Tell me honestly. What is not clicking?”

It takes a moment to muster your courage. There is one more moment of still silence before one face in the sea bravely speaks, practically shouts, out: “Miss, we’re bored!” Some more voices finally follow. “I agree. This play is boring!” “Well, it’s kind of tough to read.”

Finally. Something to work with! Something much more tangible than awkward silence. I think the argument-heavy, bloodshed-filled drama of *Antigone* is anything but boring, but back to the drawing board I go.

“You’re bored? I can work with that. What might make this less boring?”

And now we’re back to blank stares and the deafening silence of raindrops. Your answers today were not the scene summary I wanted, but they were what I needed to hear to fix this.

### Author Biography

Avery Gathright is a 2026 graduate of Wichita State University’s English Education Program. Gathright will begin her teaching career at Wichita Northwest High School in August, where she will teach 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> grade English. She can be reached at [averygathright@outlook.com](mailto:averygathright@outlook.com).

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