

Title of Session: The Art of Storytelling - Story Quilts

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: The Art of Storytelling Group

BjB: We always start the discussions in Tapped In with introductions. Can you please tell me where you are located, what you teach and what interests you about the storytelling topic?

BjB: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

LeticiaA: hello I am currently a student teacher in an elementary school teaching third grade

VioletaO: hello. I am a student teacher in Texas. I teach pre-k

ShawniP: I am an undergrad art education student at NAU in Flagstaff, Arizona. Story telling is a form of art that is useful to both teachers and students.

EricaLH: I teach 6th grade language arts in NJ,

DavidWe joined the room.

Noell: I am in Flagstaff, AZ. I am a art education student and I am interested in how to use story telling with art.

BjB: hi, David. We're just doing introductions

EricaLH: I'm interested in incorporating story telling into a unit about fairy tales

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. I'm a HelpDesk volunteer for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, just outside of New York City

DavidWe . o O (and I have actually quilted a little)

BjB: nice diverse group!

BjB: I've collected a few resources to share with you on the topic of Story Quilts, but would like to know if anyone has their own resources they would like to share?

BjB . o O (silence?)

BjB: ok...let's see if we can get those thinking caps going...

BjB: when I show you a url, please hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard

BjB . o O (or turn off pop up blockers)

LeticiaA: listening

VioletaO: ok

BjB: this first site is on Symbolic Quilt Blocks

BjB: <http://www.nvo.com/ecnewsletter/symbolicquiltblock/>

EricaLH: ok

ShawniP: great

LeticiaA: great ideas

BjB: David, Patricia Polacco wrote The Keeping Quilt

Noell: I like this idea.

BjB: I like the rubric that is included with this site

LeticiaA: this is a good site and it has endless possibilities

ShawniP: I like all the other websites attached with it

VioletaO: I love the great list of websites

BjB nods to Shawn and Leticia...the resources are a bit circular

BjB . o O (the resources I have to share)

BjB: Story Quilts Lesson Plans <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/childrens-art-activities/storytelling/5613.html>

BjB: comments?

BjB . o O (I like the idea of extensions for Math and Science...or writing a Math or Science story)

LeticiaA: I like the transportation quilt that would be a lot of fun to do with my kids

EricaLH: I like the idea of writing a story about a quilt, recently my students brought in quilts from home and told the class the background of each quilt

BjB smiles...lovely, Erica

Noell: I like how this website incorporates many different disciplines.

EricaLH: it was amazing how long some had been in the family, I didn't think of using them to write stories!

LeticiaA: that is so good to do especially for social studies Erica

ShawniP: the history that is included in this website is a great place to start with your students.

VioletaO: I like the Cultural Quilt Blocks. I would like to make a quilt that represents a variety of cultures

BjB: the next site is a pdf let me know if you get it

BjB: <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/~kvander/books/MEESKE.pdf>

LeticiaA: Imagine finding quilts from years back in history and writing the stories behind them as an assignment

BjB: good idea, Leticia

ShawniP: this would be a great way to incorporate your own students' culture into the classroom

EricaLH: Leticia, that is a great idea, each piece of quilt could represent a different phase of life , or you could even write a mystery

Noell: You could have children draw pictures about history and make a quilt out of them.

BjB nods to Noel

ShawniP: I like that quilts were made to send messages to other slaves to indicate safe houses and such

VioletaO: It would be neat to have each student draw a picture of their own history. Something that pertains to them and then about history in general

BjB: I like the idea of a quilt as a comfort item

LeticiaA: this would be great to do during black history month

BjB: o O (often we don't give kids an opportunity to express feelings and emotions..)

EricaLH: or for grandparents day

ShawniP: I agree with that BJ

BjB: for black history month, here's another site that is good.

VioletaO: I have to agree with Bj. We do not validate children's emotions

LeticiaA: I like these ideas because it is a hands on activity which can involve the child's family

BjB: <http://www.historyofquilts.com/hpowers.html>

Noell: I like the idea of friendship quilts

EricaLH: This is a wonderful piece of history. Maybe Harriet was using quilts to "write her history" because she did not know how to read or write

ShawniP: This one is good in that it is focused on one important quilt maker with a wonderful message

BjB: very possible, Erica

BjB nods to Shawn. Teaches us to value simple objects and everyday things we take for granted

EricaLH: making a symbolic quilt might be a good idea for students with behavioral problems or students who have issues with verbalization

ShawniP: yes

BjB: absolutely, Erica

LeticiaA: they are a form of expression

VioletaO: I agree with you Leticia. They are a form of expression and each piece of a quilt has something significant

ShawniP: quilt making is a great way to teach students that art is not only sculpture or painting, but also can be made from fabric that tells a story

LeticiaA: I agree

DavidWe . o O (teaches some basic geometry concepts, too)

Noell: that is a good point

LeticiaA: good group project

EricaLH: team teaching with a home economic teacher might be a good idea for any discipline

BjB: and a quilt can be USED....what other forms of art can your students find that are practical items?

EricaLH . o O (I am craft challenged)

ShawniP: math as well like David says

LeticiaA: does anyone know how we could use technology with quilts

DavidWe smiles

BjB: yes, Leticia

BjB: you can create tessellations

BjB: or fractals

BjB: or a draw program

EricaLH: perhaps using the drawing tools in Microsoft office to create quilt templates?

LeticiaA: good ideas!

BjB: what about next month's topic being quilts and math?

ShawniP: or in the style of Victor Vasarely (sp?)

EricaLH: has anyone ever made a quilt with their class?

TaborD: My mom is really into quilting and when I graduated from High School she had a lot of my friends make blocks of their memories of me for a big quilt. I really treasure that. It was fairly easy for my friends to do and they really got into it. As I look at that quilt I remember lots of stories and good times.

BjB: I have a site to share that is a digital quilt

LeticiaA: I remember as a child that I did one in second grade so I still hold that memory

BjB: you could all contribute your own digital square

BjB: <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

DavidWe . o O (Vasarely*)

Noell: At the high school I worked at last year every senior class made a quilt to hang in the commons to remember that class.

BjB: the Blanket the World with Peace project is composed of digital squares created by students and based on the theme of peace through the resolution of conflict

TaborD: When you do projects like that you unlock people's imaginations. They really express themselves.

BjB . o O (a different kind of story)

BjB: Leticia, the peace quilt would be a nice tie-in to the social studies forum topic you just heard about...Beyond the Fire

CaroleMc joined the room.

ShawniP: thanks David

VioletaO: Tabor. I agree with you. Allowing children to express themselves is very important

BjB: Hi, Carole. Glad you could join us

LeticiaA: yes Bj you are right

CaroleMc: hi sorry for delay, was having trouble opening chat room, where are we up to in our discussions today.

ShawniP: In the rubric section, I was wondering how would you determine the students originality of design?

TaborD: I am doing my student teaching now and I am amazed at the ideas my students express. It is good to encourage that.

BjB: each square on the peace quilt can link to a school page or page that contains all the student work

BjB: can anyone answer Shawni's question?

ShawniP: the links are such a cool idea

CaroleMc: that sounds like an excellent model - is the peace quilt electronically displayed somehow?

TaborD: When making one of these quilts do you just have students make the blocks or do they also take part and putting it together?

BjB: yes, it's totally electronic, Carole <http://www.cedarnet.org/emig/peace/>

BjB . o O (teachers submit a digital square to be added to the quilt)

VioletaO: I think that original design refers to a design created by the student. Not just copying a picture they have already seen.

EricaLH: I think that is exactly right Violeta

ShawniP: I understand that part, such as not using a Van Gogh image.

CaroleMc: wow, that's a beautiful idea. Do any of the squares provide story in voice? behind the links I mean?

ShawniP: a student's artwork can be difficult to judge

BjB: not yet, Carole, but the group that planned the project hoped to get voice...poems, dance, mulitmedia

CaroleMc: excellent

VioletaO: that is true Shawn. Art is difficult to judge, but you can grade the time and dedication the student put into an art piece

ShawniP: right, that is important. Thanks Violeta

CaroleMc: maybe they could submit a blog that describes their process in design - that way you may get a more complex vision of their competency

BjB . o O (one way to do an exercise in creativity is to have the students draw a heart...and then make each drawing their own)

TaborD: In reply to what Shawni said about judging art I would say that I agree but if you use a rubric you can determine what they attempted. Every student will do something different but a rubric is an indicator of what they tried.

EricaLH: Tabor, don't you sometimes find that a rubric limits creativity?

BjB: Carole, that's a good idea. There is already some information on the site, but a blog might be what it needs to get teachers actively engaged

CaroleMc: excellent:-)

CaroleMc: I've just come from an international storytelling conference here in Melbourne, and one speaker told us how she uses blogging to foster storytelling

BjB: I'm sure most of you are familiar with Faith Ringgold..her story quilts are pretty well known.

EricaLH: I love Tar Beach

BjB: Thanks, Carole...I'd like to hear more about that

BjB: http://www.artcyclopedia.com/artists/ringgold_faith.html

CaroleMc: certainly Bj, today or later?

BjB: we need a topic for next month.....want to lead that discussion?

CaroleMc: do you mean me Bj? I

ShawniP: Faith has some amazing quilts that are filled with detail and so many stories

BjB: the Hmong have a wonderful history of storycloth...this is a traditional site

BjB . o O (yes, Carole...YOU)

TaborD: I see your point about a rubric limiting creativity Erica, but it doesn't have to include an assignment. Rather it can be a tool to help students go out of their comfort zone.

BjB: <http://www.askasia.org/teachers/images/image.php?no=197&era=&grade=&geo=>

ShawniP: what does Hmong mean?

BjB agrees with the comment on the rubric

EricaLH: You are right, some students NEED rubrics just to get started. I use them with my students and their writing but sometimes they frustrate me!

BjB: Hmong is a nationality in Asia

DavidWe . o O (Laos)

CaroleMc: I would be pleased to talk about the wonderful transformational storytelling techniques shared at the international conference as a theme for next month, Bj

ShawniP: thanks BJ

BjB: here's a contemporary Hmong story cloth
<http://www.askasia.org/teachers/images/image.php?no=197&era=&grade=&geo=>

LeticiaA: the rubric is just a guide for the students encourage their creativity by all means

ShawniP: this particular quilt seems like it is telling quite an interesting story. Any interpretations?

BjB: I have one more site to share tonight...it stitches all the sites I've been showing you into a story quilting lesson

EricaLH: I think the Hmong quilt is depicting gender roles?

LeticiaA: this would be a good assignment for students to write their interpretation of what they see in the quilt

BjB: nice idea, Leticia

VioletaO: Leticia you can use the quilt for creative writing

ShawniP: very true, that would be interesting.

CaroleMc: I can see some fantastic workshops for communities using storycloths, storyquilts and digital storytelling - all in together. Like this storycloth Shawn, you could begin with theme, ask questions and draw out interpretations of story.

LeticiaA: can you imagine the different stories that you might get from your students

VioletaO: It would be interesting with what your students can come up with

EricaLH: you could use it as a "picture prompt" big buzz words in NJ education:)

LeticiaA: good idea Erica

CaroleMc: This one seems to be showing scenes of everyday life in ancient times

Noell: Carole that is a great idea to get the community together

BjB: there is a picture book that is good for explaining Hmong Story Cloth...

BjB: <http://site.yahoo.com/hmongcultural/diasstorycloth.html>

CaroleMc: Thanks Noel, yes, it would bring together the old and the new

BjB: . o O (that site also has a lot of information on Hmong)

LeticiaA: thank you Bj for all your resources

BjB: ready for the last site?

CaroleMc: hmm, an error in that link? Bj

LeticiaA: yes

ShawniP: yes

BjB: http://edsitement.neh.gov/view_lesson_plan.asp?id=242

EricaLH: I have never found a cultural Thai book for my classroom, this looks like a valuable resource

BjB: the urls will be in your transcripts if you had any problems opening sites

BjB: great, Erica

TaborD: Thank you. that will be good.

BjB: are you here for the storytelling discussion?

EricaLH: I like the idea of making quilts in the classroom and donating them to nursing homes or the homeless

JacquelinC: thank you

VioletaO: That is a great idea Erica.

EricaLH: I think quilts and writing memoirs could be a whole new topic

BjB: or donating baby quilts to hospitals

TaborD: There are a lot of places to donate quilts to.

EricaLH: great idea BJ

BjB nods to Tabor

LeticiaA: quilts can be used for any age and that is great so let's use them in our classrooms

BjB: any questions?

ShawniP: no

VioletaO: you can make quiltmaking a learning experience in the classroom and a service learning project

TaborD: I am looking forward to checking out the links.

BjB: yes, Violeta

LeticiaA: not right now but you have been great with all this information

ShawniP: this has been an enlightening discussion, thank you all

EricaLH: not right now because my head is spinning with ideas!

LeticiaA: same here

BjB: thanks. I appreciate you all joining the discussion!

TaborD: me too.

CaroleMc: we have used collaborative group quiltmaking and donations to victims of fire, flood and disaster

Noell: Thank you for all the information

VioletaO: thanks for all the websites

BjB: the next storytelling meeting will be March 8

VioletaO: thanks everyone for all your ideas

BjB: . o O (with guest speaker, Carole McCulloch!)

CaroleMc: thanks for some great ideas in the short time I was with you today!

LeticiaA: it's amazing how putting our minds together we can come up with so many useful ideas to use

EricaLH: thanks to all, if you make a quilt take a picture and post it!

BjB: that is what a community of practice is all about, Leticia

TaborD: good idea

SusanR: Thanks Bj, kids feel a sense of community when they do a quilt

BjB nods to Susan

DavidWe smiles

CaroleMc: I'll tell you all about the various international perspectives of digital storytelling and invite you to share your thoughts on growing the digital storytelling phenomenon in education

BjB: sounds excellent, Carole. Thanks

BjB waves goodnight to everyone....see you in March

ShawniP: bye

CaroleMc: bye from Australia

DavidWe: G'day!

NoelL: bye

VioletaO: bye

TaborD: bye

LeticiaA: goodnight everyone it has been a nice discussion bye from Houston

EricaLH: bye