

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts and Literature Forum

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

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Room: Language Arts Group

BJB2: The topic tonight is supposed to be LA blogs

FredK: What does the LA stand for?

BJB2: language arts

FredK: good

BJB2: I had sent Karen a link to a blog on children's books which I'll share if she doesn't arrive

BJB2: let's start with introductions, please

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In

SeanHe: My name is Sean. I teach 8th grade Math in New Jersey.

FredK: I tutor for the Pushmataha County Literacy Council in SE Oklahoma

BJB2: . o O (Karen is on her way)

KarenL joined the room.

BJB2 cheers ...hi, Karen!

BJB2: everything ok?

NathanL joined the room.

FredK waves--well met

KarenL: Hello everyone! I apologize for my being late. Stuck in traffic, taking care of last minute business. . .

BJB2: welcome, Nathan.

KarenL: Hi Fred and Nathan!!! Welcome!!!!

BJB2: we just did intros

NathanL: ty

BJB2: Sean is a math teacher in NJ and Fred is a literacy coach in OK

KarenL: Cool! My name is Karen Lemmons. I'm a library media specialist in a Detroit public school.

BJB2 . o O (and I'm a huge fan of librarians)

KarenL: For all you basketball fans, I can't brag on the Deetroit Pistons. . .

DavidWe joined the room.

DavidWe waves

KarenL: Hi David!!!

DavidWe: Hi, Karen.

BJB2: we've just done introductions, David

KarenL: Okay, we have a variety here.

BJB2 . o O (and we're waiting for Karen to catch her breath)

KarenL: Did anyone tell you the topic for today?

DavidWe: I'm David Weksler. HelpDesk volunteer and long-time Tapped In user. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

DavidWe hands Karen a glass of water

BJB2 nods to Karen. Blogs, right?

KarenL: I kinda got my breath.

KarenL drinks all the water. Hands David the glass for more

KarenL: Thank you, David!!!

DavidWe: Welcome

NathanL: I've heard of blogs.

KarenL: I give credit where credit is due. BJ sent me a wonderful url on blogs on children's books.

NathanL: marshy places .. lotsa frogs? a few trolls?

KarenL: That led me to look for more blogs on children's books. Nathan, you must read One Duck Stuck, you would love the rhyming and the mushy marsh.

KarenL: Okay. So I'm going to show you a wonderful list of blogs on books. Hmm for you language lovers, perhaps this will inspire you to develop a blog of your own. . .

KarenL: First one is <http://planetesme.blogspot.com>

NathanL . o O (how many here already write on one or more blogs?)

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2 . o O (we're too busy logging in to TI, Nathan!)

KarenL: Oops, good question, Nathan. . .

BJB2: hi, Jeff.

JeffC . o O (Nathan asked a good question!?)

DavidWe smiles

KarenL: I've looked at blogs, and am working on creating one of my own. I'll show it another time.

KarenL chuckles.

BJB2: If you're a member of Tapped In and have a blog, please send it to Kari so she can post to the new member blog page

KarenL: Thanks for the info!!!!

KarenL: okay, back to the first website. <http://planetesme.blogspot.com>

FredK: It looks like some good book reviews.

SeanHe: And one can add or improve upon what they write at any time?

KarenL: yes it does. I believe you can. Anyone knows the answer for sure?

NathanL: you can leave a comment

NathanL: but you can't modify what the authors have written

BJB2 smiles...they have The Dot by Peter Reynolds...his brother Paul was a guest for one of the Storytelling discussions. They run Fablevision

NathanL: this is a blogger.com blog

SeanHe: But the authors can?

NathanL: yes

KarenL: I love The Dot!!! There is a video. Have you seen it? Oops, I digress.

NathanL: the author can always edit his/her own work

KarenL: Are you ready for the next one?

KarenL: Ready?

BJB2 nods

SeanHe: yes

KarenL: <http://www.greenlakelibrary.org/kidslit>

BJB2: Sean, do you use picture books in your math curriculum?

SeanHe: No, but I am always looking for new, creative ideas

BJB2 winks at Karen...a future topic?

KarenL: Let's see, off hand I can think of A bowl of rice by Demi, Anno's counting jar

KarenL: Yes, thank you. . .

KarenL: Great, I'll keep that in mind for August or September.

FredK wonders who saeker is? He did all the postings

KarenL: Hmmm, not sure.

NathanL: Tasha Saecker, and I am the director of the Caestecker Public Library in Green Lake, WI.

NathanL: see the "about me" link

KarenL: Oh my goodness!!!! thanks. Tell her I will be checking out the list for school librarians. I like this website.

NathanL: no no .. *I* am not

NathanL: SHE is

KarenL: I see you guys blog regularly.

NathanL: sorry .. I realized what that looked like and I just snagged it off the page

KarenL: Oooh, oops!!!

KarenL thinks she needs to some more water before she puts her foot in her mouth.

NathanL: I'm the technology manager for the National Center on Low-Incidence Disabilities at the Univ of Northern Colorado

NathanL: I should have been clearer about what I was saying

KarenL: Interesting. Another future topic as well.

KarenL: Okay, are we ready for the next site?

NathanL: and I DO blog regularly .. but that's another topic

NathanL . o O (don't stand on ceremony .. onward!)

BJB2 checks out the book RASH

KarenL: The next one is from The Horn Book. <http://www.hbook.com/blog/>

KarenL: Well written and more formal, in my humble opinion. That's to be expected from Horn Book.

SeanHe: While I check out some of these blogs I wonder why I have never stumbled upon them before. Is there a blog search engine?

BJB2: Horn Book has been around forever

KarenL: true. I don't know that answer Sean. Anyone?

BJB2 looks to Nathan for this one

NathanL . o O (interesting)

BJB2: <http://blogsearch.google.com/>

SeanHe: thank you

KarenL: I will tell you Sean, what I did. I did a google search "blogs on children's books". About.com listed most of these websites that I am showing you. There is probably more than what I have listed.

SeanHe: thank you squared

BJB2 . o O (all you need is the time to read all of the blogs!)

KarenL: Okay. Next one. <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com>

KarenL: so true, BJ!!!!

NathanL . o O (I only cover about 500)

NathanL: feedster, blogdigger, daypop have reasonable search engines

NathanL: as does technorati

BJB2 . o O (but you still only have so many hours in a day, Nate!)

KarenL: thanks for sharing, Nathan.

NathanL . o O (too true)

NathanL . o O (I use an aggregator otherwise I wouldn't be able to cover much)

KarenL: okay, next one. <http://bunnyplanet.blogspot.com>

NathanL: this one reminds me that Link Lists are often gold mines

KarenL: You know, I'm just a bit curious. Blogger is free. How do they make money?

NathanL: volume

NathanL: sorry .. poor joke

KarenL smiles.

JeffC . o O (change bank?)

NathanL: they're owned by google. they don't need to make money on this

JeffC: advertising links Karen... but there are also many free bloggers without ads.

KarenL: Okay, thanks Nathan and Jeff. I did forget that google owns blogger.

KarenL: Next one. For you Harry Potter fans. <http://www.mugglenet.com>

BJB2 smiles

NathanL: <http://www.mugglenet.com/mugglecast/> for the podcast fans, too

SeanHe: my kids would love this site

NathanL: these people are SERIOUSLY into the HP world

FredK . o O (oops, found some popups--that's how some make money)

NathanL: I still can't see HP without looking for Lovecraft

KarenL: I have a few more and what I will do is create a word document listing all the blogs I have found.

JeffC: why not use Bloglines?

KarenL: Now, this next one is interesting because it was done by a librarian who is encouraging children, primarily middle school students I believe, to blog.

KarenL: Thanks Jeff for that idea. Will do. Here is the next site.
<http://blogonbooks.blogspot.com>

BJB2: great way to get kids actively engaged in doing book reports

KarenL: For the international book lover, we have an Australian blog on books.
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/services/education/youthlit/readalert/>

KarenL: Yes, it is BJ. I'm thinking of doing something like that myself.

KarenL thinks so many books, so little time

BJB2: and this international site
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/services/education/youthlit/readalert/>

NathanL: ok. help me get up to speed on this, please?

KarenL: on these blogs?

NathanL: the subject of the day is the use of blogs in k-12 language arts? do I have that right?

NathanL . o O (have patience, my link is flakey tonight so I may not answer right back)

KarenL: Oh, I see. Hmm. .

NathanL: these are all great sites for books .. some of them are for kids about books

NathanL: am I missing something in the keyword "language arts"?

NathanL is not a K-12 teacher so may be victim of a language barrier.

KarenL: Well, I took a different slant to this and perhaps we should discuss how these blogs can be used by teachers.

NathanL: ok

NathanL: please can you elucidate you slant?

KarenL: Yes, and I narrowed the blogs to books. However, we could certainly look at blogs that discuss the language and writing aspect. I apologize for my slant. It's the librarian in me.

NathanL: I don't disagree with it .. I just don't understand it

NathanL is married to a librarian. He understands.

KarenL: Cute, real cute!

NathanL: no. I'm fine .. I just was having a little reality check moment

KarenL: But seriously, Nathan, you brought up a good point. Because our students need to write, perhaps we should look at blogs that talk about writing as well.

NathanL: this has been an excellent introduction to one use of blogs

NathanL: or blogs that students write?

KarenL: Thanks for your understanding and patience. Let's see, I think I have about five topics for our group. Cool!

BJB2 . o O (all connected...to be good writers you have to write. To be good readers, you have to read)

NathanL . o O (Amen!)

NathanL . o O (to be good Writers you have to Read, too)

BJB2 agrees

KarenL: True. . .and to add to BJ's comment, good readers become good writers because they are learning about writing while reading.

FredK . o O (bases covered)

KarenL: Okay. time is up . but I have one more that I want to share. I would like your comments on this one. <http://www.brentatwater.com/BLOGS.htm>

FredK . o O (Bj should enjoy all that blog about art)

BJB2 perks up and reads

KarenL: This was interesting to me just because of the subject. All too often we forget that books can heal as well as entertain and inform.

NathanL: these people are busy

NathanL: I thought writing 5 blogs was a lot

FredK: A positive mind helps.

BJB2: this is great. Thanks, Karen

NathanL lost his some time back.

NathanL: thank you Karen .. a very interesting look

NathanL: do you read other librarian blogs?

NathanL: like The Shifted Librarian?

KarenL: Thank you all for coming!!!!

FredK: Enjoyed it greatly, thanks.

KarenL: Yes, I have. Incredible

KarenL: One day. . .

NathanL: one day?

SeanHe: Good night everyone. Thank you.

KarenL: I have a saying, one day when I grow up, I want to write blogs just like the shifted librarian. . .

NathanL: start today

KarenL: You would say that, Nathan. . .

NathanL: I'm that kinda guy

NathanL: you can get free space on edublogs

NathanL: as an educator .. Jim Farmer does a good job with his servers

KarenL: okay. . .I'll look into it tonight. . .

NathanL: if you wait for the "right time" it'll never come

NathanL: that's the bitter voice of experience

KarenL: I know. . .Writing for me is truly a process.

NathanL: www.edublogs.org I think

KarenL: and sometimes a difficult process. I have great respect for writers. . .

NathanL: it's a horrible process

KarenL: Okay, I will check it out.

KarenL laughs.

NathanL: but blogs are a middle ground

BJB2 thinks Karen needs to attend a few WriteTalk discussions

KarenL: oh dear, what is coming next. . .

BJB2: Sandy Shattuck leads writetalk...it's part of the NWP

BJB2 . o O (national writing project)

KarenL: Okay, goodbye everyone!!!

AnnieGst2: bye

BJB2 waves goodnight. Thanks again, Karen. Good job