

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts Back-to-School

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

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Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

BjB: Welcome to K-12 Language Arts, Emily!

KarenL: Okay, small is great!!!

KarenL: Let's begin with introductions. Emily, you begin.

EricD joined the room.

BjB: hi, Eric. We're just starting introductions

EricD: Very cool. Thanks.

EricD: Good evening, Everyone

EmilyA: Thanks for the tip. I am an intern at an elementary school in Denver. I am about half-way through my licensure program and will finish in the spring. I am very interested in literacy but really know very little about it, so that's why I'm here. Looking forward to learning something!

KarenL: Hi Eric!!! Welcome to our small group!

EricD: Lovely to be here

KarenL: Cool, Emily! Perhaps we can show you some things and you can show us some things.

KarenL: Eric, would you introduce yourself?

EricD: OK! I'm Eric, and I'm a prof in Foreign Language Education at Florida International University in Miami.

EricD: This is the 5th of the 6 courses for me in the series, and it's been pretty fun.

KarenL: That is very interesting. May I digress for a moment, Eric?

EricD: Digress away!!!

KarenL: Since you teach Foreign Language Education, are you interested in bilingual

books

KarenL: oops, I wasn't finished. Anyway, have you heard of the International Children's Digital Library?

EricD: Absolutely. In fact, I have quite a collection of children's books from all over the world in my office, and many of them are bilingual.

EricD: I have not heard of this, I'm afraid. Fire away!

KarenL: Cool! You can share some resources with us. Let me introduce myself first and then I'll fill you in on the children's library resource.

KarenL: My name is Karen Lemmons and I am a librarian in an elementary school in Detroit Michigan. I am so glad you two came!

EricD: OK! Just googled it. Can't wait to peruse some more.

KarenL: Emily, perhaps you would be interested in this website as well. Let me see if I can remember the url.

KarenL: <http://www.icdlbooks.org>

EmilyA: I will check it out. It sounds really interesting.

EricD: Ah! You beat me to it, Karen.

KarenL: You don't have to "sign in" to take advantage of the resource. You can search by colors, size, language, genre, age-very kid-friendly.

KarenL: I'm sorry Eric. I just want to whet your appetite even more!

EricD: Looks pretty terrific!

KarenL: Okay, I believe our topic today is reading. However, we can certainly expand our topic to include writing and other literacy components as well.

KarenL: Emily, have you heard of readwritethink?

BjB: Eric, another Tapped In discussion leader did a discussion some time ago on the ICBL site. Pam Berger just returned from a trip to South Africa where she was publicizing the site.

KarenL: Pam is awesome!

EricD: No kidding! This is fantastic stuff. I really didn't know about it, and now I want to

know everything. I saw there was some congress in Durban last month, and now I wish I could have gone.

EmilyA: I was just talking to my Site Professor about the site today. I have not looked at it yet but she just raved about it.

BjB: I'm going to give you the link to access the archived transcript...as soon as I find it

KarenL: okay, Emily, let's look at it now.

KarenL: <http://www.readwritethink.org> (I think?)

BjB: . o O (archived Transcript is from WebTools, April 17, 2006 <http://ti2data.sri.com/transcripts/mst/2006/>)

BjB: so, you were discussing readwritethink?

KarenL: Okay, Emily and Chandra, are you here for language arts or were you joining DavidW?

EmilyA: I've just been exploring some of its features

KarenL: Wonderful, Emily!!! So you are here for language arts?

EmilyA: I am here for the back to school reading seminar

EmilyA: Yep!

KarenL: Cool!

ChandraJ: I just wanted to see what ideas you guys were going to throw around

BjB: another excellent site for language arts/writing is www.nwp.org

KarenL: I want to share another website with you. Although not literary in the sense of strictly reading and writing, but a good website nonetheless.

KarenL: No problem! Stay as long as you like! Thanks BJ!

ChandraJ: What is it?

BjB: the National Writing Project is excellent...and has a very good search feature

BjB: Tapped In has a monthly WriteTalk discussion that features the National Writing Project and writing across the curriculum

KarenL: Marco Polo was a "integrated" website which had many resources for different subject areas. Well, Marco Polo was "lost" so to speak when the sponsor was sold or went bankrupt. I think it was MCI or some other telecommunications company.

ChandraJ: I think I have been to that site before

KarenL: Now, if my memory is correct. Marco Polo has been "redesigned" and I believe the "new" name is thinkfinity.

KarenL: Let me see if we can pull up the url.

BjB nods to Karen

KarenL: <http://www.thinkfinity.com> (I think?)

BjB: <http://www.thinkfinity.org/home.aspx>

BjB . o O (.org, not .com)

EmilyA: Wow! I had no idea there were these types of great online resources for educators!

BjB: but either apparently works

KarenL: Wow, I didn't know that thinkfinity offered free online courses--especially in literacy!

KarenL: Chandra, how are you doing?

ChandraJ: I am fine

ChandraJ: Thanks... I am talking to you and talking on the phone!

KarenL: Okay, not a problem! Just wanted to know if we're meeting your needs.

KarenL: Okay, can I broaden your horizon a little more?

EmilyA: please do!

KarenL: Okay, I'm not a science person. It is, next to math, one of my least favorite subjects. However, I learned about the national science digital library and it is awesome!

KarenL: Let's see if I can remember this url.

BjB chuckles

KarenL: <http://www.nsd.org> (I think?)

ChandraJ: there's a history one, too

BjB: impressive memory, Karen!

KarenL: Ooh, Chandra share, please!!!!

ChandraJ: hold on'

KarenL: I have "some" timers when it comes to remembering things.

BjB smiles

KarenL: Emily, how are you doing with science website?

EmilyA: Fine. Any tips on how to navigate?

ChandraJ: Having a little issue with the site I need to get to other one

KarenL: Emily, I think you're on your own on that one. I have shared the resource with my science folks and they navigate. i usually click the librarian's link and then i navigate.

ChandraJ: will get it to you asap

BjB: or you can try the K-12 Teachers link,
Emily http://nsdl.org/resources_for/k12_teachers/

KarenL: Okay, Emily, while we're waiting for Chandra. If you are interested in blogging, Gaggle.net is school-friendly, elementary oriented and it has a blog feature!

KarenL: Try <http://www.gaggle.net>

KarenL: Thanks BJ for that tip!

EmilyA: I'll check it out now.

ChandraJ: I was thinking about trying gaggle

ChandraJ: Our school is really strict about email so that is going to be an issue

ChandraJ: for some reason my hotlist isn't coming up

KarenL: Detroit is VERY STRICT emails and has such a strong filter that I just cringe when I can't get brainpop or funbrain (considered games).

ChandraJ: <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/hyperhistorian.cfm>

ChandraJ: that's the history one

KarenL: Anyway, I say this because Gaggles.Net is THE ONLY email and blog tool that we can use.

ChandraJ: I can get to those sites, but ALL email is blocked other than school email

KarenL: Awesome on the website!

ChandraJ: no problem

ChandraJ: Just this week I started using tapped in in my classroom

ChandraJ: we can't chat at school, but my students can use the message board

BjB: great, Chandra!

KarenL: Chandra, I would pitch Gaggles.Net to your techie folks. I believe they will use Gaggles.

ChandraJ: I am going to suggest it to our school tech person

KarenL: Let me know what happens. While I haven't started the emails yet, I will be starting the blogging feature soon. Well, once we take that state test (ugh!!!!)

KarenL: OOOOh, which reminds me! Emily and Chandra. If you really want to engage your students--try a competition! I'm going to participate in the 2008 Thinkquest.

KarenL: Check it out!!! <http://www.thinkquest.org>

ChandraJ: I wanted to try thinkquest once

KarenL: Kids from 9 and up can design their own website on any topic that fits one of the categories.

ChandraJ: I also plan to do the C-Span classroom election video contest

KarenL: I say go for it!!! At the very least, you will be integrating technology and literacy skills, plus teamwork and social interaction.

KarenL: And you could win!!!

ChandraJ: I have tons of ideas... just no time to get them all in

KarenL: Yes, I know. So do I. I am learning to say no. Now, my biggest incentive for trying thinkquest, are my students. They are pushing me to get them started!!!

ChandraJ: I will have to go back to the site and check it all out again

KarenL: I told them they have to wait until the testing period is over.

ChandraJ: if you need a site that will cut down on the grading you have to do

EmilyA: Sorry to be the party-pooper, but I've got to sign off. I've enjoyed my time here and hope to join you for another seminar some other time. Just one question, Karen. Are there any newly published, must know about children's books out there? I've been thinking we need a little spice in the classroom.

ChandraJ: <http://quizstar.4teachers.org>

ChandraJ: my kids are loving the Bluford High School series

ChandraJ: They also like a series that's been out for a while the first one is Tears of a Tiger

ChandraJ: By Draper

BjB: Emily, are you elementary?

KarenL: Emily, my students are loving Junie B. Jones and The Magic TreeHouse.

KarenL: They are "rediscovering" these books.

ChandraJ: I am 8th grade

EmilyA: yep, elementary

BjB: The next K-12 Language Arts discussion is October 18

ChandraJ: thanks for the info

KarenL: I would also suggest checking the publisher websites and get on their lists. Simon&Shusteter, HarperCollins are excellent publishers for letting you know the newly published books.

EmilyA: I'll try to make it on the 18th. Thank you again, have a good night!

ChandraJ: I really appreciate this chat time!

KarenL: You're welcome!!! Thank you for coming!!!!

KarenL: and sharing!!!!

ChandraJ: thanks

BjB waves goodnight

ChandraJ: goodnight

KarenL waves goodnight