

Title of Session: K-3+ Resources - Writing Fun!

Moderator: Susan Roseman

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Room: Comfy Conference

SusanR: while you are waiting..help save the world ..free rice

SusanR: Give free rice to hungry people by playing a simple word game

SusanR: can be used with students as well

SusanR: <http://www.freerice.com/>

BjB . o O (it's a very addictive site)

SusanR . o O (of course)

SusanR: WARNING: This game may make you smarter. It may improve your speaking, writing, thinking, grades, job performance...

BjB: BECAUSE THIS IS SUCH A LARGE GROUP I'M GOING TO ASK THAT YOU FOLLOW SOME PROTOCOL, PLEASE

PhasoukS: Hey, UHers..... make sure all pleasantries are communicated via personal chat

SusanR: wow what a huge crowd

BjB: I REPEAT PHASOUK'S REQUEST...KEEP CROSS COMMUNICATION TO PRIVATE CHATS

LindseyL: This is a big crowd!

SusanR: Well welcome to one of the largest crowds I have had this year.

SusanR: An Evening of Writing Fun and K to 3+ Great Resources

SusanR: Let me give you the agenda

SusanR: Join us this evening for some writing ideas to carry you thro' the remainder of the 07 school year.

SusanR: I am Susan.

SusanR: Your moderator for this evening

SusanR: I am a K to 8 Occasional Teacher from Ontario, Canada.

CristinaO: Hi, Susan

SusanR: My area of expertise is K to 3 of course

SusanR: Just a quick intro from everyone and then we will get started

StephaniRo: That is what mine is too Susan k-4th

JoseI: I'm a high school 9-12 Spanish/ AVID teacher

SusanR: where are you from and what brings you here

RaquelO: UH student teacher 3rd grade

PhasoukS: Early Childhood - 4th General. University of Houston

EricaMG: Uh student teacher ec-4

LisaJac: I'm a third grade pre-service teacher from University of Houston

CatherinRH: UH student teacher 4th grade

StephaniRo: Texas, UH student teacher in second grade

KathleenJo: I'm 4th-5th grade from San Antonio, TX

KathleenJo: I am Sarah McAllister. I am a 4th grade Student teacher from Univ. Houston

StephaniH: From UH, EC-4

JacquelinB: UH student teacher 1st grade.

JoseI: I teach at Helix Charter High School in La Mesa, California

SeanJM: I'm a High School History Teacher

ChiquitaB: UH student teacher 3rd grade

AnnyBu: UH student teacher, 4th grade

BaoKhanhD: UH Student Teacher EC-4

CelesteAc: I am a student teacher from humble Tx- 2nd grade

HelenF: University of Houston student teacher, EC-4

KristanM: UH student teacher, Kindergarten

MaureenB: Hi 4th grade teacher in Putnam County, NY

KelliT: Hi my name is Kelli Thompson from Texas - UH student - EC-4

LindseyL: UH student teacher-1st grade

ReneeM: UH student teacher- second grade now

HyejinK: UH student teacher kindergarten

BjB: Matthew, please introduce yourself

AliH: I am a high school history teacher...we are enrolled in an ED tech class

HelenF: I was student teaching in 1st grade and now I'm in 4th grade

JulieMo: Hi I'm also a preservice teacher from UH

SusanR: we are doing quick intros ..for those late arrivals

MatthewL: UH student teacher in pre k

JessicaS: uh student teacher: special ed/ ec-4

DianaC: student teacher from university of Houston in Texas

KiaundraR: I am a preservice teacher from UH- kindergarten is my current placement

MaureenB: must be an assignment with all the student teachers

StephaniRo: yes it is

LisaJac: yes

JoeV: inclusion specialist in corpus Christi, taking a tech class

SusanR: I will facilitate the evening. So please keep on track. There is such a large crowd here

KiaundraR: It is an assignment, but not the topic. We got to choose our own topics. Looks like this one sparked some interest.

StephaniRo: Ok, Susan

MaureenB: always great resources

JacquelinB: yes maam

ChiquitaB: Ok

EricaMG: Susan we are ready!

KelliT: Let's start

JoseI: ready

SusanR: The agenda will include some WRITING FIXES and creative ideas/sites to get your students writing with ease.

CristinaO: ok

KathleenJo: great

CelesteAc: sounds good

ChiquitaB: wonderful

HyejinK: sound good

HelenF: Sounds great!

SusanR: We will take a detailed look at the new and improved Writing Fix site.

EricaMG: We are in such need of good ideas!

DianaC: sounds great

JacquelinB: sounds good

KelliT: sounds good

AnnyBu: cool!

PhasoukS: sounds rad!

StephaniRo: Great

StephaniH: can't wait

SusanR: WritingFix is a not-for-profit site that features lessons, resources, and ideas from Nevada teachers on the teaching of writing in K-16 classrooms.

LindseyL: great

BaoKhanhD: great

CatherinRH: lets go!

SusanR: I have changed the agenda a bit

SusanR: We will finish with a look at school improvement and "Miracle on York Street" ...

AnnyBu: all right

AnnyBu: exciting!

ChiquitaB: that sounds excellent

CristinaO: wonderful

SusanR: and possibly one or two other related sites

KelliT: miracles are good

StephaniH: cool

MaureenB: could use one :)

JacquelinB: ok

BaoKhanhD: ok

MatthewL: wonderful

SusanR: anyone experience challenges teaching writing or literacy

AnnyBu: no, not yet

HyejinK: no

CristinaO: nope

CamilleL: absolutely on a daily basis.

KelliT: many

JacquelinB: yes!

StephaniH: Not so far

MaureenB: always

MatthewL: no

SeanJM: Yes

CatherinRH: There is a lot of pressure in 4th grade for writing.

ChiquitaB: Not yet

EricaMG: yeah totally students can't generate their own ideas

KristanM: yes

LisaJac: yes!

DianaC: yes

RaquelO: my students never want to write

KathleenJo: I have experienced problems with developing ideas for writing

HelenF: On a daily basis I encounter problems with my 4th graders

LindseyL: I always hear "I don't know what to write about"

BaoKhanhD: yes

KristanM: I agree with Erica!

StephaniRo: How do you get the second graders to be imaginative

JulieMo: yes...the fourth graders have long run-on sentences

KathleenJo: kids can't articulate what they want to say

KiaundraR: Yes. My students in Kindergarten do not like to try and sound out words, write what they hear, or attempt to spell words.

HelenF: Many of them can get the ideas, but have trouble putting it in to words

ChiquitaB: My students in 3rd love to do writing

CelesteAc: agree with all

PhasoukS: I'm in a 1st grade classroom and I'm doing Writer's Workshop... I'm having a little trouble getting my students to zoom into detail

SusanR: Yes, Raquel and others I do hear you

HyejinK: I agree with you Kiaundra

JulieMo: They also lack details

JessicaS: my kids have great ideas, its just starting that is the trouble...I hear "but I don't know where to start" A LOT!

JoeV: students have plenty of ideas just lacking the skills to express them in a proper manner

CatherinRH: Me too!

HelenF: Exactly Joe!

KelliT: Trouble with the students coming up with ideas of their own

LisaJac: yes, they lack confidence

SusanR: so Writing Fix is the site of the moment..which is undergoing revision as we speak

StephaniRo: I created a never ending story based on a Van Alsbury book

CatherinRH: When they read back what they write, they don't like how it sounds.

JoseI: Literacy and writing are two concepts that students lack interest and need improvement in.

KathleenJo: In Fourth, some are having the opposite problem Phasouk!

JacquelinB: My students in 1st graders tend to write about the same topic everyday in their journal.

PhasoukS: I try to write a class story first, by talking about what I'm thinking and then writing the good parts

PhasoukS: it's starting to work for me

JulieMo: Even with a TAKS writing prompt they have trouble coming up with ideas

CatherinRH: The TAKS writing prompts are so vague.

MatthewL: Yes a lot of my students would have problems with coming up with ideas for journal

MaureenB: ok Susan get a word in now

RaquelO: my kids have trouble staying on topic

KelliT: They always use my prompts and never venture on their own thoughts

StephaniH: Phasouk, when I did first grade writers workshop, I modeled a lot and it helps

ChiquitaB: My students have no problem coming up with ideas they just cant get it started

KathleenJo: Exactly. I have found that brainstorming with a partner for 5 min, before writing works well to generate ideas

HyejinK: I model to student but some students are refused to sound it out and write

CamilleL: my students need work on structure, organization, elaboration.

StephaniRo: How does Writers Fix work?

CatherinRH: We have done story maps and that helps as well.

HelenF: That's what I was about to ask Stephanie

LisaJac: I can't even get them to indent

JessicaS: my students have a "see journal" that they carry around and whenever they see something they could write about they jot it down

JulieMo: I think that my kids would talk and get off topic if they did that!

HyejinK: I wonder too Stephanie

EricaMG: Yeah what about writers Fix?

SusanR: wow a plethora of ideas and challenges ..I hear

JoseI: what is the website link to Writers Fix?

JessicaS: it's so cute to see the kids with their little spirals (the pocket sized ones) and pencils out at recess

KelliT: I agree

JulieMo: I like the idea of a "see journal"

SusanR: Here it is! Take a look at this site for ideas! It is undergoing revision

DianaC: ok great I always need ideas

KiaundraR: My mentoring teacher at the beginning of school had the students make name cards from construction paper. On the card, they brainstormed ideas such as pets, family members, favorite holiday, favorite places, favorite foods, etc. Whenever they could not think about what to write, they got to pull it out. Seeing their dogs name sparked a story, etc.

HelenF: I like that idea Kiaundra

AnnyBu: In Kindergarten, every morning we would write in our journals. Starting the second six weeks, I taught them 4 things they could do when they are finished writing. 1st, add detail, 2nd add words (elaborate on your story), read it like a book, or share with a friend

JulieMo: good idea!

BaoKhanhD: good idea

SusanR: get an overview of the site for a few minutes and then we can dissect it

EricaMG: awesome idea!

SusanR: <http://www.writingfix.com/>

StephaniRo: ok

MatthewL: ok

KiaundraR: great idea Anny

CelesteAc: I like that idea

HyejinK: ok

KristanM: okay

JacquelinB: I use music to evoke a memory and have them elaborate using a bubble map on each sense (taste, smell,...) in the 3rd grade.

HelenF: I like the Interactive Plot Creator towards the middle of the page

ChiquitaB: I like that too Helen

SusanR: ok here it is <http://www.writingfix.com/rightbrain.htm>

SusanR: . o O (I think)

BaoKhanhD: It's working now for me!

DianaC: wow this site looks great

JulieMo: the link will not open

LindseyL: now its working, just give it a minute

HelenF: The mini-lesson of the month club looks interesting as well.

StephaniRo: What would you like us to do now Susan?

DianaC: this site has very great ideas

AliH: there are a lot of resources on the page

EricaMG: I just got on there is so much stuff

StephaniH: there are so many options

JoseI: a lot of ideas to get started with students, great

AnnyBu: I got the website up

HyejinK: there is a lot of source

KiaundraR: I love this.

IvetteA: Sorry I'm late, what exactly are we doing. You guys are talking too fast.

SusanR: one more try and then I will give you some background material on the site

BaoKhanhD: Many great ideas!

HelenF: The great sentence creators section is incredibly interesting! There are so many themes, and many of which my current students are highly interested in!

ChiquitaB: I think this is a great website because there many resources available

AnnyBu: Yes, lots of resources!

KiaundraR: So many ideas that will fit many grade levels and diverse backgrounds

CelesteAc: So many resources

DianaC: yes I agree many great resources!

ChiquitaB: Exactly Kiaundra

HyejinK: yes, it's a lot of ideas

KathleenJo: I love the idea of incorporating art with writing, where the students must choose adjectives, nouns, verbs, and prep. phrases and then draw a picture!

JessicaS: I like the interactive plot creator...so cool

SusanR . o O (It is based on the Northern Nevada Writing Project)

LisaJac: cool site

IvetteA: Got it, thanks David.

PhasoukS: I like the story starters!

KelliT: great resource site

EricaMG: totally Sarah kinda like writers workshop in clear creek

KiaundraR: I'm adding it to my favorites list right now.

ReneeM: absolutely

ChiquitaB: This website helps me to see that writing can be interesting and fun for the students

MatthewL: Great site a lot of ideas

LindseyL: You can never have enough story starters

SusanR: as of this moment there are 39 Free-to-use Lessons: created by Northern Nevada teachers for teachers everywhere

CatherinRH: I like how it breaks down the different parts of writing so you can work on it piece by piece.

KathleenJo: wow! What a great resource

SusanR: Take a gander here

SusanR: http://www.writingfix.com/YA_Novels_and_Traits.htm

LisaJac: me too

JulieMo: yes, thanks! you can never have too many resources!

LisaJac: I like the way the lessons are linked to the traits

MatthewL: These are a lot of great books

KristanM: I love the plot creator

JacquelinB: OHH I love the crazy drawings!

HelenF: I like this site as well! In my school district we really focus on a different trait each 3 weeks and build upon it. Having lessons that are based on a certain trait is a great idea!

EricaMG: I can't get on, but I will def. check it out later

StephaniRo: There is so much to look at and this site will be very useful later on

ChiquitaB: I love this site too and I really love the way it gives you a focus trait and a support trait

BaoKhanhD: What a great collection of lessons!

IvetteA: Like the Who, what, when, where game section.

AliH: I like the cartoon plots link...I think it's a great idea for the little ones

LisaJac: I like the word choice one. I taught my third graders how to use the synonym

feature in MS Word today

DianaC: yes the lessons are great with the traits

LindseyL: I think its important to start teaching the traits in the primary grades

HyejinK: wow it's awesome

DianaC: I like how it gives you writing prompts that's neat

StephaniRo: I like how lesson plans are offered with their activities

JacquelinB: Me too

ChiquitaB: Yes it is Diana because it can help you focus your lesson

IvetteA: Yeah, I like the writing prompts too.

StephaniRo: especially with the book choices

ReneeM: the books with corresponding info and lessons are handy!

ChiquitaB: I also love how they relate it to chapter books as well

LindseyL: they have great book suggestions

DianaC: yes I agree with you Renee

HelenF: The prompts are much better than some of the ones that I have seen being used in my school!

KathleenJo: I love the lesson idea for the book Love That Dog! Great book!

KiaundraR: This is going to be great when all the links work and the website is updated.

LisaJac: the conventions are good too. My third graders are still having trouble with basic things like beginning sentences with capital letters

CelesteAc: They sure do Lindsey

HyejinK: the books are great suggestions for the lesson

MatthewL: I love the lesson idea for James and the Giant Peach

KelliT: Hope this website will work well in the classroom

ChiquitaB: My 3rd graders are too Lisa

StephaniRo: Susan, were you going to tell us more stuff about the site?

SusanR: If I can interject a moment. I will let the author, Corbett Harrison speak for himself and express his philosophy towards writing

SusanR: <http://corbettharrison.com/>

SusanR: He is spot on with his philosophy

CatherinRH: There is so much great stuff on this site but its a little overwhelming. It is a lot to look through to find things I'm looking for.

HelenF: Can someone explain a little about Writer's Workshop? I don't think my school has that.

LisaJac: I introduced the writing process a couple of weeks ago with the ever popular peanut butter and jelly sandwich lesson about the importance of details. the kids loved it!

KiaundraR: I agree with this first sentence.

LindseyL: very inspiring quote

ReneeM: these prompts are definitely better than "what I did over the holidays...!"

ChiquitaB: I agree with his philosophy as well

SusanR: File the site away and do come back to it..he may have a search engine to make it easier to deal with

KiaundraR: Check out what he said he did when he first started teaching. LOL

ChiquitaB: I also like how he said he did the workshop with his students

EricaMG: awesome! I want to be like that and can incorporate the students daily lives into their writing.

SusanR: and here are some of his favourite lessons
<http://corbettharrison.com/lessons.html>

KelliT: I had a hard time with writers workshop in first grade

StephaniH: I love writers workshop so that site was useful

DianaC: I agree as well

HelenF: What is writer's workshop?

HelenF: This is the first time I've heard of it

ChiquitaB: I also like how he said he incorporated other subjects. That is neat!

StephaniRo: I love the book Owl Moon

CristinaO: There are very interesting titles for the lessons

MatthewL: I agree

PhasoukS: it's basically a systematic program of introducing parts of writing

CelesteAc: I love his lesson ideas

HyejinK: me too

EricaMG: What a great resource! These lessons are great!

SusanR . o O (Writer's Workshop is an interdisciplinary writing technique which can build students' fluency in writing through continuous, repeated exposure to the process of writing.)

CatherinRH: I love how they start with a book and stem off of it.

HelenF: Thank you Phasouk and Susan.

StephaniRo: Susan, is what he has on his website the same as on the Writer's Fix

CamilleL: writer's workshop is a part of balanced literacy and goes along with reader's workshop

CristinaO: It is kind of neat that his students are creating their own stories

LindseyL: I love his photo section, what a great way to inspire writing!!!

JessicaS: he created writers fix

BaoKhanhD: I will definitely revisit this website soon. There are some great lesson ideas.

SusanR: Camille, would you care to introduce yourself

KelliT: Yes it is neat , but can be difficult at the same time

KathleenJo: I love that each lesson specifically focuses on a particular trait of writing

ChiquitaB: I like his photo section as well

CatherinRH: I like that too Sarah

StephaniH: loved the photos too!

CelesteAc: Diary of a Worm is great

AliH: He has a really diverse group of books that he uses for his lessons

KiaundraR: Check out the grade levels of the children. He hit all ages.

JacquelinB: I am looking at diary of a worm right now and it is interesting.

DianaC: I also like what he says about the photos inspiring students to write

StephaniRo: There are a lot of great books listed

CamilleL: Oh, hi, Reading Specialist acting as a 6th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher this year at PS/MS 83 in the Bronx.

CristinaO: I agree

LisaJac: I like the Diary of a Worm for voice. I hear this is the single most important thing they look at when scoring TAKS writing

JulieMo: I like the photos too. I bet the kids would like to see photos of people we know

EricaMG: diary of a worm is the best! It can be used for so many things.

SusanR: for sentence fluency you may wish to look at OWL MOON

KathleenJo: Using lessons such as these would allow you to clearly see where your students are having trouble, and focus in on resolving student's confusion or difficulties

JoseI: how do we make writing and reading meaningful for students, the majority just read and write as told but not for enjoyment

CelesteAc: looking now

RaquelO: voice is the first thing our 3rd graders learned

LindseyL: The diary of a worm book is great they also have diary of a fly, and spider

which would all go great together for a lesson on voice

ChiquitaB: I looked at the Owl Moon and loved it

LisaJac: Ya Sarah because they're all different

JacquelinB: I notice that his lessons tie into the 6+1 traits of writing.

CristinaO: I noticed that too

LisaJac: I have a girl whose conventions and organization are horrible, but she has more voice in her writing than any other student

CatherinRH: What is great about these lessons is that the whole class or the individual student can read the book, do brain storming and then write.

EricaMG: didn't even realize that Jackie thanks for pointing that out

HelenF: I agree Jose. Many of my students are told to read and write for punishment! It makes them enjoy it even less!

ChiquitaB: I noticed that as well

JessicaS: writer's workshop really helps that Jose...as well as readers workshop because the students choose what to write about..they have a minilesson, say over using descriptive words, but they get to choose what to use them in

LindseyL: very cool

KiaundraR: ah, great point

DianaC: its neat

HyejinK: cool

AnnyBu: very neat

LisaJac: Not only are they made to read and write for punishment, but they are told WHAT to read

MatthewL: Yea

SusanR: As you see this can put the fun and creativity back into writing

IvetteA: very cool

LisaJac: My mentoring teacher is great about giving students reading choices

DianaC: I know sounds awesome

JacquelinB: YES!

HelenF: Exactly Lisa!

StephaniH: with writers workshop however, students can always go back to finish a piece of writing or revise it as new writing strategies are introduced. So I am wondering if any of you do that

JoseI: will it work for high school students after all the years they have taken of school and the idea of reading and writing being not relevant to them?

EricaMG: yes Susan!

KelliT: that is true Stephanie

CatherinRH: Also, it puts reading and writing together instead of having them be two separate activities.

JacquelinB: I have yet to try that.

HelenF: I think if done in the right way, anything can be effective for any grade level Jose.

AnnyBu: I think "voice" in writing is one of the toughest part of teaching writing

CelesteAc: yes in my class they go back and do peer revisions

KiaundraR: Yes Stephanie, writing workshop is positive in that respect

HyejinK: this is great starts for a new teacher

ChiquitaB: Yes I agree with you Stephanie

JulieMo: I agree

StephaniH: So as writers students are never finished

DianaC: this a great resource for a first year teacher

CristinaO: I will try that

EricaMG: awesome start for a new teacher!

SusanR: There is round robin writing where each student contributes a sentence to a story

KiaundraR: I agree Hyejin. I am very excited to have such a great resource.

JoseI: peer revisions are very successful

RaquelO: round robin sounds fun

EricaMG: round robin is always fun

KathleenJo: I love that idea Susan!

KiaundraR: That sounds interesting and fun

JacquelinB: I would love to do that in my classroom! I never thought of revising a finished piece of work when learning a new trait .

CristinaO: they help the students view different point of views

ReneeM: they'd love it!

LisaJac: I think voice is so hard because they don't feel confident expressing themselves because they are told too often to write something too specific

DianaC: sounds really neat

ChiquitaB: Round robin sounds great

CelesteAc: I've heard of that but have not tried it

HelenF: My students have great voice and even organization, however, getting them to use transitions besides "first," "second," and so on is what is the most difficult.

HyejinK: why did we know about this website before we started student teaching

JessicaS: I think it will Jose....aren't high school students all about themselves and knowing it all (yes I was a high schooler not too long ago) I think giving them a choice would really make a difference....let them pick what to research and write a paper...it will probably be more meaningful and therefore better

BaoKhanhD: Wow, I would love to try round robin

CatherinRH: I think my students would really enjoy round robin writing. Maybe I will try that this week.

KelliT: round robin is cool

JacquelinB: Everything I have seen in the classroom has been taught in isolation.

JoseI: round robin? is it on the writing fix website?

KiaundraR: Lisa, you have a great point. We can help that, though.

KathleenJo: I agree Lisa- I believe that's why writers workshop is great- it gives the freedom to write without control

LisaJac: Of course it's a catch 22 because so many of them "don't know what to write"

JulieMo: I find that many of the kids are embarrassed to show their stories to the teacher so I also think that peer revision works

StephaniH: my students have a day to make a hot topic list where they brainstorm at least five things they could write about

AliH: yes...choice is more successful

AnnyBu: That's a good idea Steph

PhasoukS: I think it's best because it really gets the kids interested in writing and places value on the idea of writing

EricaMG: good idea Steph

CristinaO: they always have something to write about, then

JulieMo: We also make a list of 5 possible topics, they choose 1, then they make a plan

ChiquitaB: Once a month my Principle asks for a writing sample from the children and they get better each month

AliH: you could provide them options/topics and they pick the one they like best

SusanR: I can't wait to pour thro' this transcript and pick out some great ideas!!

JulieMo: that's a good incentive to get them to do their best work

HelenF: My students are told "This is your topic. If you can't think of anything, make it up." While this sounds good, we get some really out there ideas.

LindseyL: I like the idea of a hot topic list

LisaJac: another way to get them writing is letters. For my students' weekly reading responses they write me or my mentoring teacher a letter telling us about a book they are reading and sharing their "connections"

ChiquitaB: Yes Kelli and the students love it

JacquelinB: For my struggling writers I have found it useful to have a conversation with them on the topic and record it using my digital camera. When they tell me they don't know what to write about I play it back to them.

SusanR: Also do some choral reading or Reader's Theatre! Have them write their own scripts..use the collaborative mode please and they will not feel like it is a chore to write!!!

KelliT: Wow that is different

JulieMo: my sbte says "the only time you can lie to me is in your stories"

IvetteA: Me too, I am truly trying to keep up with all the great ideas. I will also have to go back and review the transcript after.

KiaundraR: That is great Chiquita. I bet the children are motivated to write.

JacquelinB: I ask leading questions to guide their thinking.

EricaMG: awesome idea Jackie

RaquelO: we do GO where we give a student five strips of paper to organize before writing 5 pieces intro, event 123 and conclusion

HyejinK: that's great idea, Susan

MatthewL: The last tapped session I had about writing talked out we talked about having a prompt box where kids can pick a prompt to write about and if they do not like the prompt they can get a new prompt

DianaC: I love reader theater I have done it before in 3rd and the kids loved it

CelesteAc: students love readers theater

ChiquitaB: They are because they feel motivated because writing something for the principal is a big deal for them

JulieMo: that is a good idea for the lower grades Matthew

StephaniRo: Van Alsbury book "The Mysteries of Harris Burdick is a great book for getting students involved in creative writing and enhancing imagination.

LindseyL: yes, they do love readers theater Celeste

HelenF: At my school they have a writing hall of fame. I've noticed, however, that it is only certain students that continually have their work put up there. With this, I've noticed those that don't get their work put up don't try as hard to do their best.

JoseI: what's reader theater?

AnnyBu: yes I remember readers theater Celeste

KelliT: I have done readers theatre in second grade and they were wild about it

JulieMo: what do you do to spark ideas for TAKS passages?

AnnyBu: it was quite fun teaching it as well

KathleenJo: Reader's theatre is also a great way to integrate reading and writing with other subject areas, such as social studies

ChiquitaB: Readers Theater is awesome

StephaniRo: Reader's Theater is where all the students have a part in what they read and it's more like a script

CristinaO: Thanks

MatthewL: Readers theater is so much fun for the kids

CelesteAc: we recently did one on the water cycle, where they acted like droplets

IvetteA: My daughters teacher used readers theatre last year and she absolutely loved it.

ChiquitaB: Renee and I did it with my 3rd grade class last semester and they loved it

HyejinK: I did last semester reader theater

JacquelinB: Renee, the purpose of the hall of fame is so that everyone gets their work displayed.

AnnyBu: wow that's a great idea Celeste

AnnyBu: I would have never thought of that

JoseI: is the script assigned by the teacher? what are some examples

CristinaO: That sounds like fun

KathleenJo: In Texas we have WhataBurger Hamburger restaurant and we have monthly "What a writer" and showcase one winner's writing on the PA and they win a free kids' meal.

IvetteA: I'm sure that makes them feel special.

KiaundraR: Oh, but you can choose writing for many different things. I am in Kindergarten. I tell my students I am not looking for the fastest, or the longest paper. I choose papers that may have spaces between words (this is big in Kinder).

MatthewL: I use everyday things not TAKS prompts something to get them to write

StephaniRo: We did it in second grade last week and ours was a story about Turk and Runt. Very funny and the kids loved it

AliH: you can do it with older students as well....middle school kids love it!

CarolLB: Reader's Theater is great for any grade level

CristinaO: It should

HelenF: Jackie, I figured that was the purpose for it, but in 4th grade the same students are always having their work on display.

CatherinRH: Sarah and I did a readers theater last semester using a folk tale

SusanR: Here's an example of A Reader's Theatre Script I used with my grade two students!

SusanR: <http://www.aaronshp.com/rt/RTE.html>

ReneeM: I think with any of these techniques, they just need to be allowed to be creative. They need to use their imaginations!

JessicaS: what about shy students?

JacquelinB: Ohh, I see.....

SusanR: . o O (The Legend of Lightning Larry)

StephaniRo: Yes we did number two and I'm doing it again

StephaniH: OHHH

StephaniH: How cool

KathleenJo: The scripts can be created by the teacher or by the students.

CelesteAc: thanks for the script

JessicaS: I tried this once this semester, but so many of the kids were shy and embarrassed to read out loud

StephaniRo: It is in their writing station and they love it.

SusanR: Shy students thrive in collaborative or group situations

LisaJac: thanks Susan

MatthewL: These are great scripts

JessicaS: oops read out loud :-)

EricaMG: thanks for the script it is always so hard to find quality work

HelenF: Thanks Susan.

AnnyBu: thanks for sharing!

JacquelinB: Thank You!

HyejinK: these are great!

JessicaS: so have the students read in groups for the readers theatre?

LindseyL: I like this site I used it for one of my readers theater lessons last semester

LisaJac: I've heard about it, and it looks fun. I've just never been sure what to do. This certainly helps!

SusanR: yes and they can do simple props if you wish

JacquelinB: I like to use the senses to stimulate the writing process...

JacquelinB: for example..

AnnyBu: This is my first time seeing this website

CristinaO: that is interesting

AnnyBu: its nice!

CarollB: I like to use puppets during readers theatre.

SusanR: kids love to do improv as well

CristinaO: mine too

EricaMG: improv is fun

DianaC: very nice

AnnyBu: yes they do Susan

SusanR: especially those who do not like to write

CelesteAc: puppets! great idea

CristinaO: yeah that is true

HyejinK: I wonder... How about Kindergarten who do not read

ReneeM: I've used this site before too, it's a great help!

ChiquitaB: Puppets is excellent I never thought of that before

AnnyBu: choral reading is fun

DianaC: puppets are an awesome idea that works great!

KiaundraR: Yes, that's where I come in... I think this is good for characterization.

KelliT: my first grade sbte used puppets

SusanR: improv a story they know or act it out

CarollB: I like to see what creative ideas the students can come up with

KathleenJo: I love that this site tells you up front the grade level, time, genre, and more!
Very convenient

HelenF: I did a reader's theater once last semester and the students loved it! They enjoyed performing in front of their classmates and were even more proud because they wrote the script as a whole class.

CristinaO: Puppets are good for little kids

LisaJac: if it's simple enough, and repeated readings are done, kinder should be able to do it

BaoKhanhD: I've used puppets in Pre-K. They loved it.

SusanR: kinders love that

ReneeM: Yeah Chiquita! They did AWESOME and we had such a time crunch!

JulieMo: using puppets is a good idea for shy kids b/c they hide behind something

JacquelinB: I put items in a tube sock and have the students use descriptive words to write sentence describing the object that is in the sock.

MatthewL: Yes puppets are great

ChiquitaB: That is very true Julie

EricaMG: so true Julie

KiaundraR: Jacqueline, that is a great idea.

HelenF: Jackie, I did that with my 4th graders and it was some of the best writing that I had seen from them!

CristinaO: true

StephaniRo: Ohhh, puppets

StephaniRo: I like puppets

SusanR: I copy and pasted this into word..modified some of the vocabulary etc

SusanR: blew up the font size

SusanR: and the whole class rocked

SusanR: <http://www.aaronshep.com/rt/RTE01.html>

CristinaO: thanks

CelesteAc: THANKS

CatherinRH: I always love free resources!

BaoKhanhD: thank you!

JessicaS: thanks for all the websites Susan

MatthewL: Thank you for the great resources

EricaMG: free quality resources are awesome!

LisaJac: From the "roles" I can tell third grade would love this

LisaJac: "Stinky Steve"

AliH: these types of activities are great at any age...you can adapt the theatre for the age groups, and even older kids will get a kick out of these activities

KathleenJo: Catherine, where was this site last semester? :)

JacquelinB: In order to get my students excited about presenting and reading their work, I turn my classroom into a cafe on Fridays. The children get to drink juice out of Styrofoam cups and snap their fingers after someone presents. I make it a big Deal! They love it!

MatthewL: Great idea

PhasoukS: this is an AWESOME website! thanks for sharing this one in particular, Susan

EricaMG: what an awesome idea jackie! I'm totally doing that!

SusanR: Students just love to present!!

ReneeM: That cafe idea is great!

RaquelO: It's hard to find RT in Spanish but with practice the bilingual kids can do it

AliH: I teach about Beatniks to my older kids and they love the snapping thing

LindseyL: the cafe idea is cute, and teaches them how to be a great audience

HelenF: My current students have trouble presenting. They all want to hide behind their posters or papers and they don't project their voices. We're working on that though!

JulieMo: It is hard to find a lot of materials in Spanish!

SusanR: and to stimulate writing Word Central has been revised as of late

SusanR: we are winding down; but the focus of the evening was the new and improved Writing Fix site

SusanR: <http://www.writingfix.com/forkids.htm>

StephaniRo: I think it was a very good chat

StephaniH: I plan to go back and check them out after this

LindseyL: I feel much more equipped to teach writing (my weakest subject)

HelenF: The Writing Fix website looks great already! I can only imagine how much better it will be after it has been done being revised!

SusanR: word central is great incentive for poetry writing

ReneeM: I can't wait to sit and sift through all of these great ideas and sites

SusanR: <http://www.wordcentral.com/games.html>

JacquelinB: Yes the website has broadened my writing bubble!

SeanJM: Thank you! So many ideas!

JoseI: thank you for all the resources Susan I will definitely incorporate some of the ideas in my classroom

JulieMo: I agree, thanks everyone!

HelenF: Yes, thank you so much Susan!

ReneeM: and the freerice site is addictive...at least its a good addiction! thanks for it too!

CristinaO: Thanks Susan

LisaJac: I think my "favorites" folder has gone into shock

MatthewL: All these are good sites I will definitely use these when teach

SusanR: any last minute comments. questions, thoughts about this evening

BjB: A reminder that Tapped In will be here when you're in your classrooms....join the discussions!

ChiquitaB: I feel more confident now about teaching writing and literacy

KathleenJo: Thank you for your ideas and helpful resources!

CatherinRH: The bee game is so cute in that last website and a great way to teach grammar!

StephaniRo: I have enjoyed the chat.

SusanR: there is a K to 3 Resource room which may overwhelm you at the moment

PhasoukS: thanks Susan for the rad information and Bj for the reminder!

StephaniRo: Bye everyone

RaquelO: the chat was hard to get a word in

CristinaO: I have enjoyed the chat

AnnyBu: Yes thank you, this was a big help!

KiaundraR: Thanks so much. I enjoyed it and look forward to using all these new wonderful ideas.

KathleenJo: Thank you everyone

KathleenJo: I can't wait to search through these websites and snag some great ideas to incorporate into the classroom!

LindseyL: even though it was crowded and busy the most important part was the websites, thanks

JulieMo: I am teaching math and science but I am going to share them with the other teachers

HelenF: I was excited about teaching writing, but even more so now!

CamilleL: what's the site for "Miracle on New York"?

SusanR: I want to leave you with Miracle at York Street..this is the type of inner city school I have taught in

SusanR: <http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/features/york/index.html>

MatthewL: Yea I am going to share this with the third grade team

JacquelinB: Thank You Susan!

CatherinRH: I loved this session! I have learned so much in a short amount of time!

EricaMG: Thank you Susan! Awesome job!

KelliT: yes thank you again, have a good evening