

Title of Session: Middle Grades Science - Science and Literacy

Moderator: Jan Naher-Snowden

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Jan_NS: I'm Jan Naher-Snowden, part-time faculty at U. of Akron. Working with preservice teachers, emphasis on science edu. and technology integration.

BridgetH I teach 7th grade math and science in a suburb of Chicago.

Jan_NS: I'm also the facilitator for this discussion

Jan_NS: Hi Bridget

BridgetH Hello Jan.

NancyES: Hi, I'm Nancy Sanneman, a Tech Specialist in Lyons, IL BridgetH Hi Nancy

AlejandriR: Alejandrina Rangel, Intern-Teacher from El Centro, CA.

RoseannS: Hello everyone. I'm Rose Ann, from Southern California. I teach grades 7-12 in a one room school house, on an Indian Reservation. I teach life science and environmental science together with a Native American perspective, though I am not Native.

NancyES: Hi, Bridget.....Bridget and I are in classes together at National Louis in Wheaton, IL

Jan_NS: Wow, that is neat, Roseann

AlmaGuest2: Alma lopez, from San Diego State University, i'm student and I'm taking technology class I'm intern from Wilson High school El centro CA.

Jan_NS: Hi, Alma

RoseannS: Well, at least one of you knows where Campo is! I'm from El Centro, moved to Lakeside after two months at Wilson! I am also one of Bernie Dodge's Ed Tech students at SDSU.

AlmaGuest2: Nice to meet you, Roseann

Jan_NS: I took a Webquest course with Bernie several years ago.

RoseannS: I read that about you

Jan_NS: Anyone we have missed on intros?

LeeP joined the room.

Jan_NS: our discussion tonight will be focusing on science and literacy - using outstanding science trade books to address science concepts and understandings.

BJ: welcome, Lee. Are you here for the science discussion?

LeeP: I just stopped in to see what was happening. I am new to tapped in Jan_NS: Hi, Lee, you are very welcome to join us to check out the scene! BarryW joined the room.

BJ: Hi, Barry. Welcome

RoseannS: I'm not sure I know what you mean by a science trade book. Could you please define and/or give some examples?

BarryW: Hi - What does ASO stand for

BJ . o O (ASO = After School Online)

Jan_NS: A science trade book is a book published for the general market - like parents, libraries, etc. i.e. not a text book.

BarryW: ok

RoseannS: thanks

Jan_NS: Many authors address science concepts and understandings through the trade book market.

RoseannS: I believe I own a few

Jan_NS: But unfortunately, many outstanding books have a limited publication run and go out-of-print.

Jan_NS: One excellent resource for finding out about good science books to supplement the science curriculum is the NSTA website. Hang on, I will get the URL pasted in for you.

BJ: while we're waiting, a reminder that you can click on the ACTIONS drop down menu and scroll down to DETACH to make your text window larger

BJ . o O (and easier to read)

BJ: when Jan pastes in the url, it will be hyperlinked. You can click on it to open a separate window

Jan_NS: Click on the first link: Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students k_12 (2003)

<http://www.nsta.org/ostbc>

Jan_NS: explore a bit and then come back.

Jan_NS: Unfortunately the books listed here are not hyperlinked in any way.

RoseannS: Is there a way to search by topic, didn't see one yet

Jan_NS: This NSTA list is selected annually and published in March.

RoseannS: This is a great website!

Jan_NS: Unfortunately, Roseann there is no way to search the books or authors.

Jan_NS: However, it is an excellent starting place if you want to supplement the science curriculum with excellent science books at different levels.

Jan_NS: Any thoughts on how we might put this list to good use?

AlmaGuest2: I think the students will be very interested on this site because it is fascinating.

Jan_NS: This site could be used as a resource list for students who are looking for reliable science books to read for projects.

AlejandriR: Start by going to your library and see if they have some of these books on hand and make a list of books to buy for your own classroom library.

Jan_NS: The strength here, IMHO, is to become familiar with the authors. Many of these authors appear over and over, year after year.

Jan_NS: Become familiar with the authors and you have a ready source of excellent books for science literacy and reinforcing science concepts.

Jan_NS: Alejandri - You had a good idea, however, look for the authors, instead of just the books.

Jan_NS: There are several authors that I recommend and who have had many books on this list over the years.

AlmaGuest2: You know if parents can buy those books? If yes it will be expensive?

RoseannS: If you discover student's personal interests you may want to provide a book to lead them further in their exploration of a topic. Teaching all subjects as I do, I can see where some book will relate to other classes, this could be done in any school - find out what else the kids are learning. I think it's good to know the grade level standards for all classes for your students.

BridgetH One could also make a connection to language arts. Students could access the biography section of each book list for a brief synopsis of a scientist they would like to investigate.

RoseannS: I like Bridget's idea

Jan_NS: Both good ideas, thank you for sharing them with us. That is the strength of blending literacy activities into all areas of the curriculum.

BridgetH If you record the ISBN number, many book stores will be happy to order the book for you. If they are available in paperback, the book will be less expensive.

Jan_NS: Or make a recommendation to the school librarian to add the book to the collection of the school library.

Jan_NS: Or the public library.

Jan_NS: For example, Seymour Simon is a respected science author for children - many books.

AlejandriR: Jan, which is one of your favorite author that you recommend for us to have?

Jan_NS: Many of the outstanding science authors for children have their own websites with activities, etc.

BridgetH A project that I worked on with 7th and 8th grade students was to write an ABC book for younger children. Many of the titles and topics listed here would be an excellent springboard for children. Students can use desktop publish to create their books.

RoseannS: I'm guessing that I would have to look at the book itself to determine the reading level. Do you find many that are too hard for middle school?

Jan_NS: No, Roseann - there is great diversity in the reading levels represented in this list.

Jan_NS: Let's check out Seymour Simon's website for some of his activities, etc.

Jan_NS: <http://www.seymoursimon.com>

BridgetH I have many of the Seymour Simon books. The kids love them because they contain outstanding photography. They have been available though Scholastic in paperback for very reasonable prices.

Jan_NS: Right, Bridget. Scholastic is an excellent source for getting his books.

Jan_NS: check out his site and come back in a few minutes with your impressions.

AlmaGuest2: Jan, web site has a very good presentation for kids also for adults

Jan_NS: sad to say that many authors have added a commercial presence to their pages

Jan_NS: this is a good way to find out about other books that the author has published.

Jan_NS: Another outstanding author is Gail Gibbons, here is the link to her website.

<http://www.gailgibbons.com>

AlmaGuest2: Do you know more web sites for ecosystems, Jan

Jan_NS: what level, Alma?

AlmaGuest2: Middle School.

Jan_NS: For middle level students, Jean Craighead George is great.

Jan_NS: she has written many novels that address the relationship of preteens and teens and the environment.

AlmaGuest2: Thanks a lot, Jan

Jan_NS: here is the link to Jean Craighead George's website.

Jan_NS: <http://www.jeancraigheadgeorge.com>

AlmaGuest2: That's fantastic web. It has videos, sounds and much more.

SusanR: The web site enriches and extends the reading experience.

Jan_NS: The best thing about author websites is that the students realize that the authors are still alive and still have much to contribute. and as Sue said, the websites extend the reading experience.

Jan_NS: I like the possibilities for communicating with the authors by email.

Jan_NS: Can't think of a better way to encourage a budding author or scientist.

Jan_NS: any thoughts, comments, or questions, any one?

NancyES: Thank you, Jan

AlejandriR: Great resources to have, thanks.

AlmaGuest2: Yes, Jan. I think the students have a wonderful tool using the internet to find educative web sites to develop their classwork in the science classes.

SusanR: Beautiful site.. and she encourages students to write

BridgetH Thanks for the tour. I learned some things that I didn't know about.

Jan_NS: One more before the time is up. Remember to check the publisher website for related info. for example, scholastic has a great series of pages related to the Magic Schoolbus series by Joanna Cole.

AlmaGuest2: thanks for your help

Jan_NS: here is the website for that one.
<http://www.scholastic.com/magicschoolbus/home.htm>

SusanR: I always look to the author's site for support and extension.

Jan_NS: Good point, Sue.

LeeP: as a High School Math teacher most of this would not apply to me, but I will pass it along to my daughter who is moving up to teach fifth grade next year. The sites are all very good and look to be very informative. Thanks for the information.

Jan_NS: Thanks for dropping by, Lee.

Jan_NS: Science and math go hand in hand, too.

Jan_NS: Roseann, do you teach science at your reservation school?

RoseannS: Yes, I teach all subjects...

SusanR: Thanks Jan, you opened my eyes to what's out there in terms of trade books that can support both science and language arts!

Jan_NS: Great, that was my hope for all of us, Sue.

RoseannS: BJ, I guess I will get a copy automatically, since I am a member.

AlejandriR: Great discussion, good bye.

AlmaGuest2: Good night to everyone. I have a class at 7

BJ . o O (nice connection with the arts and illustration too)

Jan_NS: Good night everyone. Thank you very much for joining us tonight.

RoseannS: Jan, science is their favorite!

Jan_NS: That is great to hear.

BJ: the next Middle Science Forum is May 27

BJ . o O (assuming I get confirmation on that from Jan)

Jan_NS: Do you do much with integrating science into the other areas of the curriculum.

Jan_NS think so far as I know that date is OK.

RoseannS: yes, I try to mix everything all up, they seem to be more interested that way

Jan_NS: I think most of us are, too.

Jan_NS: These authors are an excellent place to start. Seymour Simon has an interesting series called: Einstein Anderson - science mysteries.

RoseannS: I noticed that section and plan to look closer soon

Jan_NS: Great, I hope that you find some ideas that will prove fruitful for you.

RoseannS: All of these sites seemed very good, thanks for sharing, I will spend time in each of them

Jan_NS: Wonderful!

Jan_NS: any last minute comments or questions anyone?

BJ: thanks, Jan

Jan_NS: Thanks BJ for being here for all of us.

BJ waves goodnight