

Title of Session: Math Transformers

Moderator: Patricia Chen

Title of File: 20091020transformers

Date: October 20, 2009

Room: Math Transformers Group

EssieS joined the room.

BJB2: good, Essie!

PatriciaCh: Hello Essie

BJB2: This is Essie's first TI discussion, Pat

PatriciaCh: welcome ... what do you teach

BJB2: Essie, since you're new to Tapped In, a reminder to go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select Larger Text

EssieS left the room (signed off).

BJB2: oops

BJB2: hopefully, she'll be back

PatriciaCh: she probably did the same as I did earlier

BJB2 nods

BJB2: welcome, Angie!

PatriciaCh: it is cloudy here

PatriciaCh: Welcome Angie

BJB2: here for Math Transformers, Angie?

EssieS joined the room.

PatriciaCh: welcome

BJB2: welcome back, Essie!

BJB2: not sure if I should suggest you go to the Actions menu again....

EssieS: You are wonderful and on top of things. Thanks, BJ.

BJB2: but you can try....Actions is in the top right of your chat. Select Larger text to help you read the chat

EssieS: Thanks Patricia!

PatriciaCh: let's introduce ourselves

BJB2: Angie?

BJB2: good suggestion, Pat!

PatriciaCh: I teach middle school math in Florida

BJB2: I'm a retired art and communication teacher located in Pennsylvania

BJB2: Essie said she's taught math...not sure where she's located though

EssieS: I am a student teacher scheduled to graduate from Univ. of Memphis 12/19/09. Elementary Ed. K-6

SuePu joined the room.

BJB2: thanks, Essie!

BJB2: welcome, Sue

PatriciaCh: welcome

EssieS: Welcome, Sue.

PatriciaCh: we are doing introductions now

BJB2: we're just doing introductions, Sue....where are you located and what do you teach?

PatriciaCh: we are doing introductions now

SuePu: I am in San Clemente and I teach 6th grade social science and science this year but math is usually my curriculum area.

PatriciaCh: is San Clemente in California?

SuePu: Yes in Southern California, Orange county

SusanR joined the room.

SusanR waves and listens

PatriciaCh: I teach 6/7/8 in Florida

BJB2 waves hi to Susan

PatriciaCh: let start ...

PatriciaCh: anyone with questions

EssieS: Sue, that sounds interesting. When I began my degree, it was called Integrative Studies K - 8th grd. I wanted to go to up to middle school and concentrate on a English. But I stayed in too long and will now have to add to my studies to get to grd 8.

PatriciaCh: Essie please explain

SuePu: I have a multiple subject credential in Ca. and also a supplemental in English but my favorite subject to teach has always been math especially pre-algebra. I can teach up to 8th grade in English but only math in 6th

PatriciaCh: but you can add to include middle school math

MaureenB joined the room.

PatriciaCh: welcome Maureen

EssieS: My degree was K - 8th but was cut off at K - 6th due the college changing to support the "No Child Left Behind" clause. So I will have to take more classes to teach anything beyond 6th grd. I already knew I would have to add a concentration for English.

MaureenB: Hi

PatriciaCh: we started introductions.

SuePu: Yes I could get a supplemental in math as well which would allow me to teach up to 8th in a single concentration

PatriciaCh: please tell us where you work and what you teach

MaureenB: I am a 4th grade teacher in Putnam County NY

PatriciaCh: welcome everyone

PatriciaCh: Has anyone ever use stories to help teach?

MaureenB: I have a whole bin of books that I use to introduce new concepts

PatriciaCh: Have you tried it with math?

SuePu: Math does not use literature to teach but I like this idea since our school focus is literacy

BJB2: lots of really fun books that use math!

PatriciaCh: If you check out the files ..there is a list of books

BJB2: high school kids even like to read them

SusanR: I recently used The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns to teach geometry to grade 2

PatriciaCh: many teachers think that literature and math doesn't go together

EssieS: I have always used stories to help teach; especially when I was a pre-K teacher for over 12 years. Stories have also been a part of my student teaching and will continue to be a part of my method of teaching.

PatriciaCh: Greedy Triangle is a good one ...my middle schoolers enjoy that

BJB2: did everyone find the book list under featured files?

PatriciaCh: Marilyn Burns has tons of good books ... some are geared for elementary ed but you can design a lesson for your grade level

SuePu: I will check out the files, this sounds interesting and I could share this with our 6th grade team, our 8th grade geometry teacher has never seen how literature can be worked with his curriculum, I could share this info!! The English teachers will love me!

PatriciaCh: kids enjoy listening to stories

EssieS: Books work great with math lessons; especially with elementary students. I also I never saw a problem with my own children listening to books past elementary.

PatriciaCh: that is true it is all how you present it ...

PatriciaCh: Cindy Neuschwander - her books are terrific as well

PatriciaCh: and the kids will remember the concept better if they learn and have it

reinforce in a different way

EssieS: BJB, I was trying to view the books when I was kicked offline a moment ago. So I will view them later.

BJB2 nods to Essie

SuePu: Any other ideas that could be used with 7/8th graders??? Short stories that emphasize a concept??

BJB2 . o O (you may need to turn off your pop up blocker, Essie)

PatriciaCh: Sidney Sheldon ... it is on the list too

EssieS: OK, BJB

MaureenB: which book of Sidney Sheldon?

PatriciaCh: With some stories ...it is not as obvious but if you can look past the story as elementary you can use it

PatriciaCh: Where the Sidewalk Ends (Poetry)

PatriciaCh: it is poetry but there are a few entries ... a math teacher can work it into the lesson

SuePu: I just took a look at the MiddleSchool.doc on the files list and it has some really great activities incorporated lit with math activities.

EssieS: Is the author's last name Silverstein, Patricia ?

PatriciaCh: Juster, Norton

MaureenB: He has a great one about money that I love to use

PatriciaCh: Essie ..yes

PatriciaCh: Shel Silverstein

EssieS: That's it! I love his poetry; it has great meaning behind it.

PatriciaCh: Also Norton Juster ..Phantom Tollbooth ... good for middle / high school

SuePu: Does anyone know anything about Math Curse??

PatriciaCh: it is hard to get teachers to change

PatriciaCh: Terrific book!!!!

PatriciaCh: for me it is a year end project

PatriciaCh: I ask the kids to write their own version of Math Curse

EssieS: Yes, my math professor read Math Curse to our class as one of the books to teach with. Great book!

PatriciaCh: Science has a version too ... good read

SuePu: Is it called Science Curse?? and by the same author??

PatriciaCh: yes ...it came out a couple years ago

PatriciaCh: Shel Silverstein ... there a tons of meanings behind what he writes ...one has to dig deeper

MaureenB: Science Verse

PatriciaCh: ok..

PatriciaCh: What other books have you used?

PatriciaCh: About the list ... the bolded authors ... I have used them ...

PatriciaCh: Also check the Story Connections ..Dianne deLaCasas ... she is a member of Tapped In and you can use her stories too

PatriciaCh: I have not added her to my list

PatriciaCh: She was a guest speaker in this room ...

BJB2: <http://www.storyconnection.net/>

PatriciaCh: thank you BJ

BJB2: she did a wonderful book using tangrams

BJB2: Tangram Tales: Story Theater Using the Ancient Chinese Puzzle

EssieS: The Tangrams book was wonderful. My instructor introduced that one to us as well.

PatriciaCh: And you can use tangrams to teach almost anything in math

EssieS: Sure can.

PatriciaCh: And kids love using tangrams

PatriciaCh: also and this will be another chat topic

PatriciaCh: origamiuse it to teach math as well

PatriciaCh: and paper airplanes ...are the easiest thing to use to teach geometry and measurement

SuePu: I have used origami project of the paper crane with a literature book before....I think it was called a 1000 paper cranes....sad story

BJB2: cranes are made every year to commemorate the victims of Hiroshima, I believe

PatriciaCh: younger students ..use origami to identify the shapes ...older students can measure the angles as well

PatriciaCh: yes cranes are used to honor them

PatriciaCh: that is a history lesson as well

SuePu: yes that is right and the story was about those who died of cancer from the bombs...the origami project was tied with math as a lesson, I taught this 15 years ago in 6th grade...history yes.....

SuePu: Sadaku and the 1000 paper cranes I believe was the name of the book...

PatriciaCh: and you can use origami to teach symmetry, geometric concepts, measurement ... and one can keep going on this

PatriciaCh: using stories to teach ...makes my lesson more fun

SuePu: Great way to connect the students to math, history and a lesson in life!

PatriciaCh: it keeps the interests going

EssieS: Stories drive the concept home very well.

PatriciaCh: and kids connect better

SuePu: Especially when the stories are true.....

EssieS: definitely so!

PatriciaCh: kids think each subject is independent ...but everything is linked

PatriciaCh: it is a page out of English ... the cause and effect

EssieS: I have found that even the oldest child and even adults, love stories.

PatriciaCh: the older ones claim to have disinterest ... but they still love someone to read to them

SuePu: When kids are in middle school the subject matter really seems to be separated but with literature across the curriculum we can link the subject matters together. It is just a little more work and cooperation than a self contained classroom.

PatriciaCh: Work it takes ...as well as cooperation ...

SuePu: You really need all of the teachers to buy in to this kind of thinking.....

PatriciaCh: to me ... it makes my day I cannot teach the same thing the same way ..year after year .. I get bored

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

SusanR . o O (Sir Cumference and the First Round Table, by Wayne Geehan ..another suggestion)

PatriciaCh: Sue you are right

BJB2: The next math Transformers discussion will be on November 17

SusanR: Thanks Patricia. I am inspired.

PatriciaCh: I will post another topic

SuePu: Agreed,,,,,,well it has been a pleasure talking to all of you....dinner for the family awaits and enjoyed our discussion.....I will be taking away some great ideas!

PatriciaCh: check in on the 17th ...

EssieS: Good night, all. Nice chatting with you!

PatriciaCh: you can always make your day interesting

SuePu: On my calendar....

PatriciaCh: good night

BJB2 hugs Pat...thanks! Thanks for your delightful participation, everyone

PatriciaCh: good night