

News:

- *Louis Torres comes Wednesday!
- *Research chapters for Monday!
- *Check out the beautiful NWP brochures!

Chocolate
always helps
you think!



Fairy Tales Presented by Sara Rosette

In Sara's demonstration we learned that she uses fairy tales in the classroom to enhance comprehension, practice analytical skills, and teach about story elements and parody. Most impressively she showed us how fairy tales can help students project their feelings in writing that is relevant, empowering, and helps them understand themselves and others. She hooked us!

Sara read us some outstanding student work which we enjoyed. We wrote some great tales from the prompts she gave us including Mary Ellen's "Bad Teacher" story and Roxanne's tale of "Moscow". Situations for students to write about include being new in school, divorce, bullies, new babies, jealousy, death loss, and moving. Check out ReadWriteThink.org for more ideas about using fairy tales.

Ollie by Jessie Hudson

Mary Ellen introduced us to Jessie Hudson, who just graduated from high school. Jessie wrote the story of Ollie when she was in 7th grade, but recently published it. Jessie read her powerful story about people who feel they are different and left us wondering, although Ollie is not perfect, no picture would be perfect without him! Several of us bought copies of the delightful book from Jessie. She is working on a sequel!



Alliteration! Presented by Carla Sufferin

"Simply sensational strategies for stimulating students to sentence synthesis!"

Carla's philosophy as an English teacher is that her students need to have "a strong background in the fundamentals of writing" by the time they leave her class. She has developed a scaffolding system to support the 7th graders in the acquisition of skills. A day in her class includes silent reading, journaling, and specific skill lessons.

Carla taught us the "compound sentence dance" and everyone in the group demonstrated their understanding! Let's see... it was the right arm hits Lennie, right foot kicks Melissa, left foot kicks Rene, left arm in Rosie's face, sit down. I think I got it.

Sam and Spot, a Silly Story is a way to introduce students to word play and alliteration. The class wrote and shared some clever alliteration stories. Listening to Therese's story was really fun however it was reported that the "F" table was quite wet

when it was all over. We noted that the alliteration technique developed vocabulary, encouraged the use of active tenses rather than passive and was an activity where ELL students have an advantage over monolingual students!

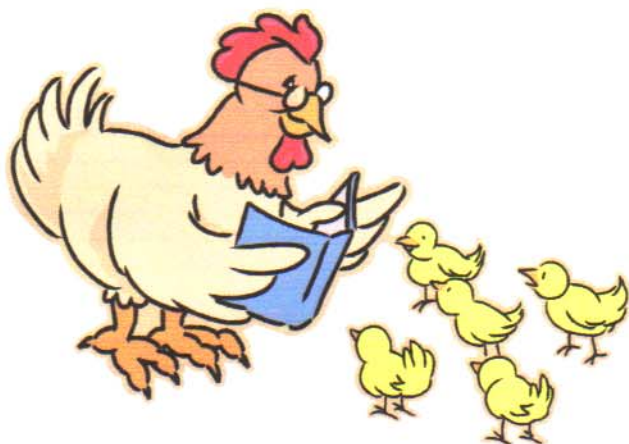
Report from Aurelia

The NCLB legislation is designed to punish schools by requiring standards that can't be achieved by all (remember the bell curve?) and then demanding drastic measures when schools fail to present Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Thank you, Aurelia for representing our children's best interests in Austin. A recommended book is In Defense of our Children by Elaine Garan. See Susan Ohanian's website for news, quotes, research and "outrages" on this topic.

<http://susanohanian.org/>

Check it out!



Bird by Bird , Anne Lamotte
The Stinky cheese Man and other Fairly Stupid Fairy Tales,
J. Scieszka and L. Smith
Wicked, Barry McGuire
Animalia, Graeme Base (alliteration)
Blank books can be ordered at:
Totally Blank Books
http://upub.net/products/hj_blank.htm
Book making instructions:
Klutz Build-a-Book
<http://www.klutz.com/about/factory.php>
Visual Thesaurus:
<http://www.visualthesaurus.com/>