

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Tracy introduced a writing activity in which you write as much as you can on anything you remember. This is called rambling biography by Linda Reif, *100 Quick Writes, Scholastic*. Sharing their memories were Melissa, Lennie, and Cristina.
- Michelle reviewed the log which she wrote in a tantalizing and appetizing manner.
- Nora shared post-cards from Cinco Punto Press that she picked up while on a trip to El Paso.
- Aurelia reported the young poet had read Barnes & Noble she attended.
- Roxanne shared that Luis Torres had offered to share a list of references/resources with the group.

Creating Spaces for Writing: Students and Teachers

Aurelia Davila de Silva, Ph.D.'s presentation on "Creating Spaces for Writing: Students and Teachers" provided valuable information on the process of preparing to research, address, and present important issues.

Dr. Silva began by reading a biographical poem of her daughter. She and her husband wrote the poem as part of her daughter's homework assignment. She said they had worked on it for several days, but that the teacher and her daughter's friends agreed that the poem truly described their daughter.

Dr. Silva's educational background, educational ex-

perience, and lists of articles she authored provided the group a glimpse into her work. Dr. Silva's work includes: researching the implications of "Oral Reading Behavior of Spanish Speaking Children Taught by a Meaning Base Program" (1970), advocating school equality in Texas, Minnesota, New Mexico, and throughout the United States, and collecting cultural stories for publication. Her guiding principle is that community studies can help students.

Reading miscue analysis is Dr. Silva's specialty. Miscue analysis views the errors the child makes and uses the evaluation to guide the in-

struction.

Dr. Silva discussed the importance of the study of social culture, social political, psycho genetics, and whole language, and social linguistics.

Dr. Silva provided the group with many handouts that would help an individual become an advocate for his/her individual issue. Some of the forms included "Advocacy Target Practice" by Randy Bomer and an "Assessment of political readiness."

Dr. Silva said that her objective was to provide the group the tools that would facilitate the advocacy role.

Reviews: Young Adult Literature and Professional Book Studies

Groups presented their interpretations and insights to the young adult books read. They included:

The Misfits by James Howe

Monster by Walter D. Myers

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

My Land Sings: Stories from the

Rio Grande by Rudolfo Amaya

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett

During the book discussions, group members named other books to elaborate on the topics. They included:

Who's Invited to Share?: Using Literacy to Teach for Equality and Social Justice by Roxanne Henkin.

Confronting Bullying: Literacy as a Tool for Character Education by Roxanne Henkin

The professional books studies were held in small group discussions.

Final Week Activities

There afternoon was filled with several final weeks activities. The first one was the demonstration of the writing websites by Lennie. He reminded everyone to load their PowerPoint demonstrations and the writing selections for the anthology before retuning on Wednesday.

Therese then guided us through her wonderful Helter Skelter log. She had everyone laughing and commenting on her interesting interpretation of the day's events.

The next item on the agenda was group pictures. Group members cooperated in setting up the

area in the entry hall. The most challenging part was determining those that would sit and those that would stand. Tanya has been a very patient photographer.

The signing of the book bags was another demonstration of our members being cooperative and accommodating. The few paint pens and markers were being used quickly and in an orderly fashion. The bags looked marvelous. Kim deserves a big "Thanks" for writing San Antonio Writing Project on most of the bags.

Also on the agenda was designing a cover for the anthology. Rene

and Mary Ellen found some websites with pictures of the hubble in space. After narrowing it down to three selections the group voted and decided on the preferred picture.

Finally it was time to find the quote that would be on the cover. Mary Ellen read the ones that had been submitted. Michelle read her quote and everyone agreed that it was the most appropriate quote

Using the groups ideas, Melissa designed a rough draft on her notepad during the discussions and said she would work on it during the holiday. Thanks, Melissa!

Book List

Freire, Paulo, & Macedo, Donald (1987). Literacy: Reading the Word and the World. Bergin & Garvey, West Port, CT.



Goodman, Yetta (2003). Reading Miscue Inventory: From Evaluation to Instruction.



Mora, Pat (1993). Nepantla: Essays from the Land in the Middle.



Amaya, Rudolfo (2005). Jemez Spring (Sonny Baca Mysteries).



Amaya, Rudolfo (2004). Tortuga.



Amaya, Rudolfo (2006). The Man Who Could Fly and Other Stories (Chicana & Chicano Visions of the Americas).

