

**Title of Session:** K-12 Language Arts - Thanksgiving Resources

**Moderator:** Karen Lemmons

**Title of File:** 20071115langartsthanksgiving

**Date:** November 15, 2007

Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

**BJB2:** we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions. Please let Karen know where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

**KarenL:** hello everyone!

**KarenL:** yes, please introduce yourself!

**MichelleAR:** Hi I am an out-of state teacher who has taught 1st and 5th. I am currently in San Diego and working towards my credential

**BJB2:** I teach remedial communication and am located in Pennsylvania

**KarenL:** ooh I love San Diego! Great conference city, but I digress.

**MichelleFW:** Hi I am Michelle Westman. I live in a suburb of Arizona and teach 7th grade Social Studies

**HelenF:** I am from Houston and am student teaching in 4th grade currently.

**BJB2:** this is Helen's first Tapped In discussion, Karen!

**JasonSt:** Studying English in South Texas- Will probably teach highschool eng

**KarenL:** Welcome Helen and all other first timers!

**BJB2:** . o O ( or was that Jason who said that?! )

**ArielW:** I come from Asia and teach both English and some Chinese

**HelenF:** It's okay BJ, it is my first time as well attending a discussion.

**JasonSt:** I'm a newb as well

**BJB2:** whew! Thanks ;-)

**ArielW:** It is also my first time to come here

**KarenL:** Wow! I'm glad you have joined us. I'm Karen Lemmons, library media

specialist in a Detroit elementary school.

**KarenL:** Okay, let's get to the topic at hand. Last year I showed some Thanksgiving websites. I can do that or if you like, I can ask you some questions about what you would like to know about English/language arts.

**KarenL:** What's your pleasure?

**HelenF:** Is there any way to do both?

**KarenL:** sure! I think we can do both! BJ, what do you think?

**MichelleFW:** I would like some websites that I can share with my Social studies professional learning team on campus, we meet tomorrow

**BJB2:** your session, Karen ;-)

**MichelleAR:** Yes, covering both sounds good

**ArielW:** Karen could you list the website about thanksgiving

**KarenL:** Okay, BJ, but I'll need your help!

**BJB2** gives Karen her undivided attention

**KarenL:** Sure, what I could do is create a word document and post it in files.

**KarenL:** I'm going to start with three Thanksgiving sites that I think will meet your needs.

**MichelleFW:** wonderful

**ArielW:** Oh thank you because I want to know about Thanksgiving websites

**HelenF:** Thank you Karen

**KarenL:** the first one is Thanksgiving day. <http://www.thanksgiving.org>

**BJB2** checks to make sure everyone got the site?

**HelenF:** Got it!

**MichelleFW:** yes got the site

**MichelleAR:** yes got it

**JasonSt:** got it

**ArielW:** got it thanks

**MichelleFW:** very interesting site

**JasonSt:** I like the Mosaic

**ArielW:** I agree

**HelenF:** I agree. The Mosaic is absolutely beautiful.

**KarenL:** well, that's not exactly the site I wanted you see. I think I wrote down the wrong url.

**JasonSt:** woops

**KarenL:** Now, if you can use it, by all means. . .

**MichelleFW:** still interesting

**KarenL:** let's try this one. <http://teacher.scholastic.com/thanksgiving/index.htm>

**ArielW:** I got it

**MichelleAR:** Thanks, I think it could be really useful for my future elementary classroom.

**JasonSt:** try clicking the link again

**JasonSt:** this site looks like it would definitely be very useful in an elementary classroom

**HelenF:** Got the site and just the little bit that I've looked at so far looks really useful.

**JasonSt:** it is full of visuals and i think the sound clippings add to the experience

**KarenL:** yes, I like Scholastic. Very useful for k-12 education.

**MichelleFW:** excellent site very informational

**BJB2:** a reminder that the urls will be in your transcript

**JasonSt:** I like how the site depicts the daily lives of pilgrims and their children

**ArielW:** Yes I got it

**JasonSt:** kids will laugh when they read about the knicker box game

**MichelleFW:** web quests are a wonderful way to have children interact with history

**HelenF:** I like the fact that students can tour the Mayflower. My students now are so interested in our country's history.

**ArielW:** I used to play one online game about Thanksgiving

**MichelleAR:** The students are also able to view the lives of the pilgrims through their responses of interviews

**ArielW:** The name of this game is Jamestown online adventure

**MichelleFW:** sounds interesting

**HelenF:** We never really did anything for Thanksgiving when I went to school. I want my students to be able to experience it so much more, and this site looks like a great place to start.

**JasonSt:** It's kinda neat that the site depicts both sides of the interaction that took place between the Pilgrims and the Indians

**BJB2:** does anyone read Debbie Reese's blog?

**MichelleFW:** no

**JasonSt:** is she a member of tapped in as well?

**MichelleAR:** Who is our leader for this discussion? Is it Karen or BJ. The reason I'm asking is because I have to write a brief paper for one of my college courses.

**HelenF:** I agree Jason.

**BJB2:** <http://imagesofindiansinchildrensbooks.blogspot.com>

**MichelleFW:** oh me too

**JasonSt:** Karen is and bj is assisting

**JasonSt:** quite nicely I might add

**BJB2:** Karen is the discussion leader

**BJB2:** I'm just filling in until Karen gets back, but thanks, Jason ;-)

**MichelleAR:** ok thanks

**BJB2:** Debbie's blog is very interesting

**JasonSt:** I like the layout

**ArielW:** I find the website of Jamestown online adventure <http://www.historyglobe.com/jamestown>

**HelenF:** Is the link that you just posted Debbie Reese's blog, BJ?

**MichelleFW:** interesting

**BJB2:** <http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

**MichelleFW:** wow Debbie has had a very interesting life

**JasonSt:** Ariel this game would be great for children in elementary- how did you find this?

**ArielW:** This is from my course about foreign language teaching

**BJB2:** go to Debbie's November 9th post and read about Eve Bunting's book Cheyenne Again

**ArielW:** and we discuss how to use this online adventure for group discussions

**BJB2:** very cool, Ariel

**KarenL** joined the room.

**JasonSt:** very cool

**JasonSt:** it reminds me of the game Oregon trail

**BJB2** glues Karen's feet to the virtual floor

**ArielW:** Do you think the online game is helpful to reading comprehension or other skills?

**MichelleFW:** welcome back Karen

**KarenL:** sorry, about that folks. My computer crashed again. . .yes I'm back!

**KarenL:** BJ, what did you show them?

**BJB2:** I showed Debbie Reese's blog and Ariel showed a very interesting site <http://www.historyglobe.com/jamestown/>

**HelenF:** Welcome back Karen!

**KarenL:** ooh nice! thanks Helen!

**ArielW:** Welcome back

**BJB2** . o O ( I pointed toward Debbie's Nov. 9th critique of Eve Bunting's Cheyenne Again. )

**BJB2** . o O ( I really like Eve Bunting, too ;-( )

**HelenF:** I agree Jason. It is very much like Oregon Trail.

**KarenL:** yes, so do I. She writes about a variety of topics. I wonder if she has a website.

..

**KarenL:** in the meantime, let's check out one more Thanksgiving website. <http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/thanksgiving/main.html>

**MichelleAR:** Where do I find Debbie's Nov 9th critique?

**JasonSt:** Michelle is it here: <http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

**MichelleFW:** history channel is my favorite

**JasonSt:** you have to scroll down to the 9th

**MichelleAR:** thanks Jason

**BJB2:** this is related to the history globe site: <http://indians.vipnet.org/resources.cfm>

**JasonSt:** no prob

**ArielW:** I use the website , like Jamestown online adventure, to encourage my Asian students for peer discussion and reading comprehension

**ArielW:** How about using websites for language teaching

**MichelleFW:** You can use this website for background information on student driven product like brochures or power points

**BJB2:** I think the reading level is fairly high, Ariel. What age level do you use the site with?

**ArielW:** Yes Michelle This online game also help foreign students quickly understand American culture

**ArielW:** About senior high school

**MichelleFW:** Good idea I work at a high Hispanic population in which 75% immigrate from Mexico

**MichelleFW:** They have no idea about Thanksgiving so this is a wonderful background info and I can really use partner strategies in the reading aspect

**JasonSt:** I don't know if I see American culture being well represented in this game Ariel

**ArielW:** I also guess whether this online game is too difficult for junior students to understand

**KarenL:** If you explore the history channel resources, an excellent website is American Memory.

**HelenF:** I think the Scholastic site would be much better for introducing students to American culture.

**ArielW:** In fact this online adventure just briefly introduced a historical event

**KarenL:** Michelle, I know of a bilingual "newspaper" that would probably appeal to the primary grades. Let's see if I can remember the url. <http://www.paginajunior.com>

**MichelleFW:** I agree but I like the set up of this site and can encourage my higher level readers to create a visual piece with the ELLs

**ArielW:** OK I would try the scholastic for my Asian students

**MichelleFW:** Thanks Karen I like this website as well

**KarenL:** And, you could always "google" for bilingual websites as well.

**ArielW:** So different kinds of websites could conform to different needs for language instructions

**KarenL:** Okay, those were my three thanksgiving ones. BJ, correct me if I'm wrong, I think you had a Native American website to show?

**KarenL:** or did you do this when I was in cyberspace?:)

**BJB2:** I showed it, Karen...just a sec

**BJB2:** <http://indians.vipnet.org/resources.cfm>

**BJB2:** this is from the Virginia Department of Ed

**KarenL:** Oooh, excellent!

**KarenL:** We have a few minutes left. Is there any particular English/language arts topic you would like to explore? Are you familiar with readwritethink?

**MichelleFW:** Excellent list of resources

**HelenF:** Thanks for the Thanksgiving websites Karen.

**KarenL** blushes. Thank you guys!

**JasonSt:** thanks Karen and bj

**ArielW:** thank Karen for offering many websites

**HelenF:** I've only briefly heard of readwritethink, nothing too in depth on it though

**BJB2:** Ariel, you might find this site useful <http://www.adlit.org/>

**HelenF:** Thank you as well BJ for the sites!

**MichelleFW:** Thanks for all the information on the websites.

**KarenL:** Do you know about readwritethink? It's an excellent resource for English/language arts.

**BJB2:** You can subscribe to their newsletter and participate in the blog on adolescent literature, MashUp. MashUp is hosted by Jamie Watson, AdLit.org's consultant for literature. "Jamie is a reviewer for School Library Journal and she is active in the Young Adult Library Services Association, serving on several of its committees, including Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers and Selected Audiobooks for Young Adults. She

**BJB2:** is a librarian in suburban Baltimore."

**BJB2** . o O ( that is the site I posted to the group discussion board )

**KarenL:** okay, let's see <http://www.readwritethink.com>

**MichelleFW:** I have used readwritethink.com often



**ArielW:** which websites are more proper to junior high students?

**JasonSt:** is readwritethink.com affiliated with readwritethink.org?

**KarenL:** Hmmm, let me think. Yes, it is Jason.

**MichelleFW:** I teach middle school and I use readwritethink in class

**BJB2:** might want to take a look at

<http://www.readwritethink.com/click.php?c%3EdnWi%5BIezbYSmeHiqcntvZ3%3Au%27lfzxpset%3Euibolthjwloh%27sbo1%3E3%27f%3Evt%3CVT%3C21%3C2%3C2%3C4772%3A64%3Cjoufsdptnpt%60bggjmbuf%607%60e3s%60efsq%3Cqpmbtq22%3C26878%3C616%27vsm%3Eiuuq%3B00sd23%2Fpwfsvsf%2Fdpn0e0ts0%40ybsht%3E26LQkh266TnqbnxszrecwCSPTGxGpbydb69N2qD6K6H%3ACd9nR9Ef28bbIBod2%263ETf2o%263EG%263EOxQPY%263E7dTLgQzoQ%263ELGB%263EHS2rCHPg8zu3bxJp9Ob3oXuSGhwNb9cYImpOPQI1G%5BHd%5BTPL14vQKJOcwck%3AH%266GZxE338CwwyzNv4yPNYFM%7Bb%7BhNq%3Ah7MeeJTwQJI%3A88GLK68T9Cde74w6mTWd5pSnOG2xO3VGTFUMj%263EI5StN4zw2Nn%3AzqrsUfqFMwc4wnJrZg8Lql%5B1HPisJu7N7slgJonkNoKevCk%263EgiZOqvRhKT83uO%7BfF21%3A77w3B%7B7%263EFbsNz7Hc3G%5BXJVzTZ%5Bz1wghdfCwbsgFPQZxy99z4ggqeRJKQz%7BCs%3AEcHRYHjrZlWR5uLWDQZ%263F%27zbsht%3Exxx%2Fgsffepngspnivohfs%2Fpsh%27gffe%3E%27qsjdf%3E%27tbq%3E4112456>

**BJB2:** yikes...bodacious url!

**ArielW:** I am not sure so I want to hear others' viewpoints

**BJB2:** this is better <http://www.freedomfromhunger.org/>

**MichelleAR:** Is there a website I could go to which will give me ideas for various language arts centers for elementary children

**KarenL:** while I'm thinking about your answer, Jason. I also want to show you thinkfinity. It used to be marco polo.

**KarenL:** <http://www.thinkfinity.com>

**HelenF:** Is readwritethink a site that just lists other sites to get lesson plans, graphic organizers, and other various things from?

**BJB2:** readwritethink and thinkfinity should both have ideas for centers for you, Michelle

**ArielW:** thank all of you for offering much information

**JasonSt:** as a lot of you on here tonight are educators- what is your opinion on technology in the classroom. Is it a must have, how do your kids respond to it?

**MichelleAR:** thanks BJB@

**MichelleFW:** Kids work so much harder when you offer technology embedded in the lesson and it

**MichelleAR:** I think technology will be readily available for children in the future so I think it's a must for us to teach the basics or introduce technology to children today

**MichelleFW:** helps in differentiating learning levels and styles

**HelenF:** Jason, I think technology enhances, but it should never be a replacement for a teacher. I've seen too often at the school that I'm in, that teachers let technology teach for them and the kids don't really learn anything.

**ArielW:** I think Technology is more helpful to instruct students

**KarenL:** oh yes, and what I am thinking? Children's book Week!!! It is this week, check out readwritethink for resources and activities.

**BJB2:** here's one for you,  
Michelle <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/beginning10.html>

**JasonSt:** thank you all for your responses, I agree with all of the points you make

**ArielW:** because technology could offers students more instant information and interesting images to enforce their abilities

**MichelleFW:** Thanks for all your suggestions and I am going to take the information to my school tomorrow

**ArielW:** Especially , For most Asian students

**KarenL:** I'm glad that we could help you!!! I was worried. . .

**KarenL:** When's the next date, BJ?

**MichelleAR:** Technology will also motivate students to learn and will also enhance learning my providing different venues to explore information

**ArielW:** because they lack authentic language use for English they need technology for listening and speaking

**JasonSt:** Ariel your job as an esl teacher must be challenging

**BJB2:** K-12 Language Arts will meet on December 20

**ArielW:** yes

**MichelleFW:** Alright everyone good night I have to go eat dinner. Sorry for leaving so soon. I look forward to meeting on December 20th.

**BJB2** waves goodnight to Michelle

**HelenF** waves goodnight to Michelle

**KarenL:** Cool, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah resources?

**MichelleAR:** thank you..all of you have been helpful in providing various websites that will help in my teaching.

**BJB2:** sounds good, Karen

**KarenL:** other winter activities?

**KarenL:** cool beans! Thanks everyone for coming! Appreciate your support.

**JasonSt:** Thank you all for your time

**JasonSt:** g-night

**KarenL:** Have a great Thanksgiving holiday. See you next time!

**JasonSt:** have a great Thanksgiving break!

**HelenF:** Have a good rest of the evening everyone! Thank you so much Karen and BJ for everything tonight!

**HelenF:** Have a great Thanksgiving!!!!

**BJB2:** thanks for your participation, Helen

**ArielW:** thank for all of your help

**BJB2:** thanks for your participation, Ariel

**KarenL:** goodnight everyone!