

Title of Session: Language Arts Forum - Scary Stories

Moderator: BJ Berquist for Donna Hendry

Title of File: 200310151a

Date: October 15, 2003

Room: After School Online Room

BjB joined the room.

CynthiaED: Are we scared yet??

BjB: boo!

TiffaniRN: I'm trembling

BjB: Donna hasn't logged in yet. Not sure what's up with her. [Ed. Note: It was later learned that Donna had a power outage in her area due to a severe windstorm and was unable to log in.]

BjB: but, we can have our own discussion if you're interested

HelenS: did you bring your flashlights?

CarolHe: This is my first visit. I hope it's not too scary!

HelenS: me three

TiffaniRN: me too

CynthiaED: I am hiding under my blankie just in case

BjB smiles..I see you're really getting into the proper mood

HelenS: got my tea an snacks ready

CarolHe: I have popcorn

CynthiaED: I am now getting hungry

HelenS: lol

CynthiaED: how long do we wait for the discussion leader???

BjB . o O (till we run out of popcorn?)

HelenS: sounds good to me

TiffaniRN: me too

BjB: let's introduce ourselves and share some resources

BjB: I'm a helpdesk volunteer for Tapped In and an art teacher in Pennsylvania

HelenS: k, Helen S. in Houston, student teacher, 2nd grade

CarolHe: I teach fifth grade language arts in Gainesville, GA

GaileG: 2nd grade, San Diego County

CynthiaED: Does anyone know exactly what type of scary stories we are going to talk about? I am an education student at the University of Houston in Texas.

HelenS: me too!

TiffaniRN: I am an education student at the University of Houston

BjB: what grade levels are you interested in?

GaileG: Primary, k-2 for me

BjB: here's a nice activity for Kinders for Halloween:

BjB: <http://www.kconnect.com/glyphs.html>

BjB: I'm willing to lead the discussion, if you are interested

HelenS: I hope I didn't eat all those snacks for nuthin!

HelenS: I'm interested!

BjB: Thanks, Helen.

CynthiaED: I am interested!!

RobinAL: Go for it!

TiffaniRN: Thanks Helen

CarolHe: Sure, I guess, but we don't have a presenter??

HelenS: not even a bartender!

TiffaniRN: What do you want to discuss?

KimGst4 joined the room.

BjB: I'll be the presenter, Carol.

TiffaniRN: Hello Kim

BjB: we can stick to the topic Donna planned...Scary Stories

CarolHe: Then, let's go with it.

CynthiaED: Hello Kim

HelenS: Well this sounds like a good idea! Lets hit it!

BjB: did you see the link I showed you earlier?

HelenS: The pumpkin one?

BjB nods to Helen

CynthiaED: What is the sub topic like children's scary stories appropriateness??

HelenS: yup!

CynthiaED: nope

TiffaniRN: no

RobinAL: Sorry to have to leave in the middle - perhaps we'll meet again. Bye!

BjB: <http://www.kconnect.com/glyphs.html>

BjB waves bye to Robin

RobinAL left the room (signed off).

TiffaniRN: Bye Robin

HelenS: It looks like a good activity

CynthiaED: Very nice

HelenS: We did a really cool thing today

BjB: this one looks like fun: <http://www.scary.com/index2.html>

HelenS: Called Night Read

BjB: Please tell us about Night Read, Helen

HelenS: Kids brought books, flashlights, towels and we blacked out all the windows

HelenS: kids had to earn the privilege and they read all day in the dark

HelenS: we read a scary story and even did centers in the dark

TiffaniRN: What grade was it?

HelenS: 2nd

TiffaniRN: Sounds like fun.

CarolHe: My class likes to turn out the lights and read by lamplight.

HelenS: They had a blast and I was shocked to hear their conversations were really about books and centers!

CynthiaED: My computer was too slow so what was behind the monster on the last web site

CarolHe: I don't know. My computer is slow too.

BjB: Cynthia, the url will be in your transcript so you can look at it later

BjB . o O (same for you, Carol)

CynthiaED: Thank you

HelenS: I just went to that site! How cool is that!

BjB: here's a book about Newbery Halloween

KimGst4: Could you mention that site again, please?

TiffaniRN: I will check out the website later, my computer is acting weird.

BjB: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0385310285/002-0120946-3459212?v=glance>

CynthiaED: Should you let your younger classes tell scary stories or not?

CarolHe: I saw that the other day and meant to check it out. Thanks for the reminder:)

BjB: Kim, go to www.scary.com

KimGst4: Thanks

HelenS: That was a good question. Should you let the little ones do the scary story thing?

CarolHe: I think even young children like to be scared. You just have to keep it at a pretty simple level. Most of the Halloween picture books are fairly tame.

TiffaniRN: I think that it is a good idea to let them make up their own stories.

HelenS: true. But Where the wild things grow used to scare me!!

BjB: this site has some fun stuff too <http://www.holidays.net/halloween/>

CynthiaED: I think that Miss Nelson is Missing is a good story for Halloween

CarolHe: That's a great idea. Maybe give them some story starters.

TiffaniRN: Me too, that is a good book.

BjB: Halloween on the Net includes Day of the Dead...good multicultural resource

HelenS: The Day of the Dead link looks really interesting

CynthiaED: That web site was fantastic!!!

BjB: wait till you see this one...food for Halloween

http://www.giftideacenter.com/Holidays/Halloween/Halloween_stories.htm

KimGst4: Great stuff!

CynthiaED: That was a little gross

CarolHe: I think friendly/scary is most appropriate for primaries/elementary children.

BjB chuckles..yeah. Cool though

TiffaniRN: I agree with Carol.

CynthiaED: I agree with friendly or cute scary

BjB: I also agree. I'm just trying to give you some links that apply to a wide age range.

CarolHe: I also like to do mystery stories. Great opportunity for comprehension, listening, and reasoning skills.

BjB . o O (just in case you get stuck with older kids)

TiffaniRN: Thanks for the links.

TiffaniRN: Mystery stories sound like fun.

BjB . o O (there is a recipe for caramel apples and cider on the food page)

CynthiaED: This could work for our lesson T just with a scary story and have each group do the parts and make it a mystery or scary

CarolHe: I like introducing mystery vocabulary words like sleuth and red herring. My fifth graders think they are cool.

TiffaniRN: That sounds good. I love caramel apples.

KimGst4: I will use that recipe for our big bash at the end of the month.

CynthiaED: Kraft foods has great ideas for holidays and so does the m&m site

TiffaniRN: Cynthia, for which lesson

CynthiaED: Tomorrow

TiffaniRN: do you want to change it?

CarolHe: Cynthia, can you explain more about the lesson you are describing?

TiffaniRN: I thought that it had to include worms or plants, is that still possible?

CynthiaED: We won't but it could work - we are having 3rd graders split into 3 groups and 1 will write the beginning of the story and the next group will write the body and the next will write the conclusion. They will continue each others' parts

TiffaniRN: They will also create a cover page for their story and present them to the class.

TiffaniRN: I think that it could work, but we already have it completed.

CarolHe: Sounds fun. I have a fun friendly scary board that I like to use. I cover the board with black paper and then add pairs of paper eyes. Some are scaryish, some funny. Then I put a white T in the middle to look like a window with trick or treaters peeking in. The children write a character description to go with a pair of eyes of their choice.

CynthiaED: I was just saying that it could work with a scary story or a mystery if someone wanted to

CynthiaED: That is a neat idea

TiffaniRN: That sounds like a great idea!

BjB: here's a vocab site for the older kids

<http://www.languagelearningnetwork.com/HP/halloween1.htm>

CarolHe: Thanks for the older kids site.

CynthiaED: horrified is a great word!

BjB: if you have ESL students try this

http://www.wsl.edu.pl/~azetka/halloween_index.html

CarolHe: We also wrote paragraphs about something they were batty for. They put the final drafts on bat shaped paper and I hung them from the ceiling with string: "bat-mobiles"

CynthiaED: Help, why was that good for ESL students??

TiffaniRN: Carol, that is also a great idea.

BjB: think it's more reading comprehension

CynthiaED: oohhhhhh

BjB: but there are flash cards with pictures

HelenS: That was a nightmare trying to find the chat thing again!

TiffaniRN: Glad to have you back.

CynthiaED: oh I did not see that part it was fast and I saw a fill in the blank story

BjB: this would be good for a computer center activity

http://www.wsl.edu.pl/~azetka/picture_match_halloween.htm

CarolHe: I have also done stories where the children brought in a favorite candy wrapper the day after Halloween. We post all these on a chart and they write stories using the candy names. They love it and get really creative.

CynthiaED: Candy idea was very creative did you think of it yourself?? you are sooooo cool,

TiffaniRN: Carol, how long have you been teaching?

CarolHe: This is my tenth year. I started in PreK and now I'm in fifth.

TiffaniRN: Wow, which is your favorite?

CynthiaED: You may graduate eventually, ha ha

HelenS: That is a great site for ESL! I will share it with the first teacher I was with this semester

HelenS: ha ha

TiffaniRN: Cynthia, you are so silly.

CynthiaED: Thank you

TiffaniRN: You're welcome.

CarolHe: They both have their fun parts, but I think now that I've done the older children it would be hard to go back. If I do any summer activities I usually try to do younger, just for the change.

CynthiaED: How do you feel about work sheets?

TiffaniRN: Touchy subject

HelenS: **BjB** do you have any suggested scary books for 2nd graders?

BjB: let me look, Helen.

CarolHe: I think that they have their place, but it's really not that hard to take one and use it as a launching pad. Some skill and drill is important, but if I'm bored, usually the children are too.

BjB: here's another activity for those candy wrappers

<http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/lessons/CandyMath.shtml>

TiffaniRN: I have been taught in all of my classes not to use worksheets, but now that I am in the schools, I see them all of the time.

HelenS: If worksheets are used for independent work or homework after the real lesson is learned I see it has its uses

CarolHe: I don't think that it's fair to completely dismiss anything, but I try to limit their use or at least find some with a creative slant.

HelenS: My teacher uses them for ideas for whole group activities or work center activities... not using the actual sheet

TiffaniRN: My computer is finally working and I was able to look at that lesson on candy. It was a good idea.

BjB: here's a nice list, Helen <http://www.nancykeane.com/rl/385.htm>

CynthiaED: That was a fast candy site and I think work sheets are good for homework but the classroom should try to engage and let the children know that learning can be fun, my opinion

HelenS: That AtoZ site has some really great lessons on it. I've been able to pull some great stuff off of there

CarolHe: I copy them on transparencies sometimes and use them for whole group instructions. If each student has his own copy, I think it makes a good activity. But I still only do this occasionally.

HelenS: ooooo! One's called Raw Head and Bloody Bones!!!!!!

TiffaniRN: Does anyone have any good social studies lessons or websites that include the topics people, places, or environments?

CynthiaED: hey no trying to get others to do your homework,

TiffaniRN: Making the transparencies sounds like a good idea.

CarolHe: The rule for my fifth graders is, "no blood, no guts, no gore!" It's in simple language that they can relate to and it seems to work when they are doing creative writing.

HelenS: thank you for the list **BjB**. I'm sure I'll find some great books to bring next week.

BjB: more scary stories for first and second grade

BjB: <http://www.elmhurst.lib.il.us/kids/scary.html>

TiffaniRN: I am not, I have completed four lessons, but I do not really like them.

CarolHe: Thanks for the great web sites.

CynthiaED: We could look on some sites where students rate books and look for scary ones and the age of the students that rated it. I loved that idea when I came across one once

BjB: my apologies that Donna wasn't able to join us. I hope you feel that you got a little something out of the discussion

TiffaniRN: I got many good websites to check out.

HelenS: I really appreciate you jumping in and leading the conversation. I saved each site so I can check them out further.

CarolHe: Absolutely. Thanks.

CynthiaED: This has been fine and that last book list was great with extra information and that is great

HelenS: I fell we got some great resources tonight!

TiffaniRN: Me too.

CynthiaED: Thanks for taking the lead and salvaging the night

BjB: my pleasure, Cynthia

BjB: our time is about up. You're welcome to stay and chat, but I need to get going.

CarolHe: Oh well, at least we're communicating.

TiffaniRN: No one is focusing on grammar

BjB waves goodnight. I've enjoyed this discussion

HelenS: Well ladies! It was a pleasure! Good night!

CynthiaED: THANKS AGAIN

HelenS: Thankx **BjB**!

TiffaniRN: It was nice chatting with you.

CarolHe: Good night and Happy Halloween!