

Title of Session: LA Forum - Politically Correct? Native Americans v. Indians

Moderator: Donna Hendry

Title of File: 20031119la

Date: November 19, 2003

Room: ASO

DonnaH: My name is Donna Hendry, and I'm an educational consultant in CT.

Tonight's session topic is on Thanksgiving literature

AndreaA: My name is Andrea Ancira. I am a pre-service teacher from the University of Houston.

SusanNH: Hi my name is Susan Hoang! I am a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston.

EmilyTK: I'm Emily. A pre-service teacher from University of Houston.

RiannH: My name is Riann Havey. I am a pre-service teacher at University of Houston

NancySa: I'm Nancy...also a pre-service teacher at Uni. of Houston

SeidyC: Hi Seidy and UH pre service teacher

JanethM: Hello everyone, my name is Janeth and I am student teaching in San Diego, 2nd grade.

AshleyG: pre-service teacher at the university of Houston

SherryLM: I'm Sherry, a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston

IlianaP: Hi my name is Iliana Perez. I am also a UH preservice teacher.

KathyHoa: pre-service teacher at UH

MelissaRS: I'm Melissa, a pre-service teacher at the University of Houston also.

KimberlyAS: I'm Kim and I am also a preservice teacher at the u of h

TiffanyT: I am Tiffany, pre-service teacher at UH

LourdesA: Hi everyone my name is Lourdes and I'm also a pre-service teacher at UH

DonnaH: When you say preservice...what level or area of study? are you all elementary? tech?

AllenBe: I'm 'retired' teacher, active "curricularist" Not from Houston but California

NancySa: elementary

AshleyG: elementary

SusanNH: Early Childhood

KimberlyAS: ec-4

SeidyC: elementary

RiannH: elementary - semester before student teaching

SherryLM: EC-4

EmilyTK: EC-4

LourdesA: early childhood

DonnaH: (oh, good!) *chuckle*

TiffanyT: same

AndreaA: pre-k through 4th and about to be certified to be a teacher

MelissaRS: EC-4

IlianaP: ec-4 (bilingual for myself)

DonnaH: I was afraid I'd end up with a bunch of high school teachers...and nothing useful.

DonnaH: It'll be a good session then:)

SherryLM: I'm excited...this should be great information

DonnaH: If anyone has a favorite new find for Turkey day, speak up:)

DonnaH: But I'll start with my favorite.

JanethM: It's nice to be in contact with many elementary teachers and student teachers.

DonnaH: A teacher introduced me to it last year.

DonnaH: Its called "Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey"

AshleyG: sounds cute

TiffanyT: that does sound cute

DonnaH:

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0590469770/qid=1069289058/sr=2-1/ref=sr_2_1/103-5666064-5194240

AndreaA: I read "The Plump and Perky Turkey" too cute. Second graders loved it!

DonnaH: The cultural context is nice as well; though the Latino if I remember correctly (I lent my copy out) is Puerto Rican (since most of you are Houstonites)

LourdesA: Looks like a great book

RiannH: I used There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed A Pie for a lesson about a week ago -- very cute

SeidyC: I'm Puerto Rican

NancySa: sound like a great book that focuses on culture

DonnaH: (if you can share a link Andréa, that would be cool...because it's great to have the author and such)

JanethM: sounds interesting

KimberlyAS: I just did a lesson for kinder with a book called Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks, really good

AndreaA: It's about a town without a turkey for Thanksgiving. It gets the children thinking about what else they could eat if they didn't have a turkey!

DonnaH: My own daughter's second grade class is using a book called Molly's Pilgrim...

TiffanyT: this does look like a good multicultural book

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0688162800/qid=1069289615/sr=1-17/ref=sr_1_17/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

MelissaRS: This book looks really great. I would like to get it.

IlianaP: It is an awesome book

DonnaH: (when we did Gracias, we followed up with one of those "step by step" drawing books on how to draw a turkey....the kids loved it)

AshleyG: I used The First Thanksgiving Day....great counting book

KathyHoa: That seems like a great idea

AndreaA: the author is Bateman, I don't have a website for it, and I already turned the book back into the library

JanethM: thank you for suggesting awesome reading books!

NancySa: this would be great...several students who do not celebrate Thanksgiving can relate to the girl...

AndreaA: what happens for the kids who don't celebrate Thanksgiving Day?

DonnaH: Molly is another good one for cultural diversity...the main character is a immigrant from Russia, learning American traditions

TiffanyT: yes these sound like good books

SherryLM: The book is called Molly?

AshleyG: I might have to check these books out

SusanNH: I'm teaching a Thanksgiving technology lesson tomorrow and I am going to first read them a book. These are some good suggestions for books that I could read.

EmilyTK: thanks for the links it helps with the discussion

DonnaH: its called Molly's Pilgrim, Sherry...I was being lazy:)

JanethM: Ah, multicultural reading books are also interesting.

DonnaH: I'm a big fan of seeing the covers...helps me remember them when I'm in the library:)

NancySa: true

AshleyG: me too

KristenDS: I am reading the book This is the Turkey in my Pre-k placement, it incorporates rhyming and discusses the main idea of being thankful.

SeidyC: yes that helps

AndreaA: I'm visual too

DonnaH: which is why I use Amazon.

LourdesA: I saw Molly's Pilgrim as a movie..It was great!

DonnaH: Really? hmmm

AndreaA: me too, in Tyson's class

DonnaH: (would love that...wonder if I could find it *grin*)

NancySa: is it an old film?

AndreaA: it is great, I almost cried

LourdesA: Not too old, but older

DonnaH: (would it hold students attention, or really better for us?)

SarahLH: These all seem to be for beginning elementary. I am a middle school preservice teacher. Do you have any for middle school students?

AndreaA: like from the late 80s maybe

DonnaH: I have a few, Sarah....

NancySa: ok...thanks

DonnaH: This is upper elementary.

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0698113926/qid=1069289709/sr=1-23/ref=sr_1_23/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

LourdesA: It would hold an older groups attention, fourth and up

DonnaH: (its written by Jean Craighead George)

IlianaP: You know a lot of elementary books could be adaptable for middle school students as an engagement into a lesson too

SarahLH: Thank you

AndreaA: that's true

DonnaH: perhaps use it as an introduction to an author study (such books as Shark Beneath the Reef, and My Side of the Mountain?)

DonnaH: Sorry...I'm going off on tangents *laugh*

LeslieA: We were taught to use picture books for all grade levels

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0152018174/qid=1069288691/sr=1-143/ref=sr_1_143/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

AndreaA: I had a professor who was also an English teacher. he said that the older kids still love to look and read the younger books. they get a different meaning out of them when they are older. it also works their imagination

DonnaH: Is a book about Squanto, by Joseph Bruchac.

SherryLM: Donna...do you find it appropriate to teach the traditional Thanksgiving story of the pilgrims and Indians?

DonnaH: Joseph Bruchac is a veryaccurate writer of native American stories.

JanethM: This is great! A lot of good reading books for a future teacher.

AndreaA: a high school English teacher that is

DonnaH: personally? that's a big no.

SarahLH: I have heard that as well. I do want to include books that are at the level of students also.

NancySa: this is great...we really don't hear much about the Indian's perspective

DonnaH: but...in the very early years, I can understand why its done.

EmilyTK: all these books are great!

MelissaRS: I am writing these books as everyone is saying them. Thanks a lot.

SherryLM: My social studies methods teacher felt the same way

DonnaH: Which is why I think Brushacs view is very useful in the elder grades...to correct some of the earlier misconceptions.

LaurenK: right

MelissaRS: What about the younger children?

SarahLH: I think that is very important

IlianaP: I agree with the big no

DonnaH: I'm probably the wrong person to ask when it comes to native American studies.

SherryLM: Why do you say that?

DonnaH: My second major was English, with a focus on Native American literature...so I'm highly biased.

SherryLM: I can understand that then

DonnaH: I KNOW what's taught in school. and it grates my nerves whenever I hear a teacher use the word Indian.

KimberlyAS: Native American is more politically correct

AshleyG: right on

KathyHoa: What other books do you suggest for Thanksgiving?

KristenDS: What do you suggest should be taught to the younger kids?

LaurenK: it is important to teach the truth, not an idealized vision

AshleyG: there are tons out there

AshleyG: you just have to search for them

IlianaP: So, Donna what approach do you think we should use to address that issue? Because kids see Pilgrim and Native American all over the place during this time.

SusanNH: A lot of children's literature use the term Indian though. I noticed that when I went to the bookstore today to look for a Thanksgiving book.

SherryLM: My site base teacher is trying to get her students to understand the word "native" so that they understand

LourdesA: But I don't think the younger students would understand

DonnaH: but there are a lot of books that are very topical, and not very much depth.

DonnaH: They do Sherry.

RiannH: And parents may be reinforcing it at home

DonnaH: And it's rather irritating. I mean do we still go around saying Negro? or even Black?

AshleyG: NO!

DonnaH: And beyond the political correctness...(I'm really not as pc as I should be)

LourdesA: nope

AshleyG: well...I guess some people do

DonnaH: Columbus named them Indians because he thought he landed on the Indian subcontinent.

AshleyG: it's really sad how things are these days

LaurenK: right

SherryLM: that's right!

DonnaH: they aren't INDIANS...that would mean they came from India.

AshleyG: true

DonnaH: To me, its a total misnomer.

LaurenK: teachers need to educate themselves before the students

LourdesA: I agree Lauren

DonnaH: but it is very difficult to find information that corrects that

KristenDS: What are some appropriate books that teach the proper ideas?

LaurenK: good question

KathyHoa: Yes

RiannH: We as teachers need to be very conscious of things like that, though

LeslieA: good questions Kristen

IlianaP: very good question Kristen

SherryLM: "Lies My Teacher Told Me" is a great one to read as teachers

MelissaRS: great question Kristen

NancySa: but how do you have kids get away from referring them as "Indians" ...constant reinforcement?

KristenDS: Lauren, I absolutely agree with you.

DonnaH:

http://www.nativeweb.org/resources/art_artists_music_literature/literature/short_stories_-_traditional/

SherryLM: It tells the true story of the pilgrims

DonnaH: this website carries some excellent stories...but they are all electronic...

AndreaA: thank you

LaurenK: great..I took a look

JanethM: I agree, books mentioned about Thanksgiving are good; however, we know the true story about the Thanksgiving. For this reason and others, we need to know how to teach it and explain it to a student level.

AshleyG: thanks

LourdesA: Can I just say that I heard a teacher tell students that the Statue of Liberty's original color was white

EmilyTK: Kristen I really like your question because I think as elementary teachers we can get caught up in the cuteness and loose site of the content.

NancySa: this would be great though...have students get some more experience using online sources...thanks

AshleyG: I like the cutesy stuff, but it's more important to teach the content

MikeRa: Our society doesn't help with the kids when you still see high school mascots as Indians. How do we explain to the student the rationale behind that?

DonnaH: In all fairness, it's also a matter of what is available dealing with materials.

SherryLM: We all made "Indian" hats as the teachers called them and pilgrim hats...maybe it's more fun for teachers?

TiffanyT: Yeah you could put them in a literacy center or something

EmilyTK: interesting mike

AshleyG: very interesting

LaurenK: the website also has different folktales

DonnaH: Another excellent Native American author who has done children's books is Michael Dorris.

DonnaH: (we got sidetracked onto native American literature.

DonnaH: Which is important too,...and I was "informed" that was the subject I set before (and forgot *blush*)

JenniferMo: I taught a lesson today with a book titled Thanksgiving Day by, Anne Rockwell. The kids loved learning about the first Thanksgiving and what the Pilgrims and Indians were really thankful for

DonnaH: You usually don't get into the really good native authors until you get to adult reading.

SherryLM: I think that it is important to talk about these issues because I want to make sure that I am teaching truth

AndreaA: Native American not Indian

DonnaH: (I think I'm going to scratch my nails on the board each time I hear the word Indian.)

DonnaH: I ALMOST feel guilty teaching my daughters Santa.

KathyHoa smiles

SherryLM: Almost but not quite!

DonnaH: When kids catch you in fibs/lies they don't trust you.

RiannH: That's a little different though - I think

EmilyTK: Donna what do you think about using chapter books as read alouds in the lower elementary? So that lower elementary students are being exposed to books with more content in them.

JenniferMo: that's a fine line for a lot of people

DonnaH: But I think THAT is another story entirely.

LourdesA: Yep, that's very true

KimberlyAS: it's a tradition

IlianaP: I think that Santa can really serve a purpose sometimes. It helps with a child's imagination.

KathyHoa: My SBTE uses chapter books and the students love it Emily

AshleyG: all of this stuff wasn't a problem when I was in elementary school....at least not as big as it is now

DonnaH: I've done that before. (reading in class)

DonnaH: even older...

SherryLM: I think human nature is selfish and that is why we love the idea of Santa and teach it to children

TiffanyT: I know its crazy how these issues have changed

LaurenK: chapter books are good for lower grades as read alouds

AshleyG: I think so too

KimberlyAS: good point sherrie

RiannH: Thanksgiving is a historical event and as such we should stick to the real story as much as is developmentally appropriate

NancySa: Donna...what other books do you suggest for thanksgiving?

DonnaH: I think it helps students strive to read better too, when they see what sort of stories they could read themselves

RiannH: developmentally

JenniferMo: I have found that using chapter books as read alouds only [piques] the students interests and encourages them to read more

RiannH: I enjoyed hearing chapter books as a young child

SeidyC: we need to teach them what giving and receiving is all about

AndreaA: chapter books rock!

DonnaH: oh here's one I really liked.

SherryLM: Children love chapter books...gets them excited to come in from recess if they know you are going to read another chapter

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0805065318/qid=1069287490/sr=1-4/ref=sr_1_4/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

KimberlyAS: Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks is a great book to teach children about giving thanks

DonnaH: (the disc is on the page)

AshleyG: I've read that book...too cute

AaronT: I think that for students to be excited about reading the teacher needs to have that passion first.

SusanNH: I love that book. It is fun to read. I think children would really enjoy this book.

KimberlyAS: it also has cultural diversity in it,

KathyHoa: Donna can you give us the title for the books

KristenDS: I went to Barnes and Noble tonight looking for that one, they did not have it

JenniferMo: Definitely, Aaron. Teachers are the ultimate models for reading

MelissaRS: I agree with you totally. It is amazing how much children want to read when a teacher has passion for reading

DonnaH: That one was...

SherryLM: Aaron, passion for reading is my whole teaching philosophy

DonnaH: "The Perfect Thanksgiving"

AshleyG: I love to read books to the students when I am teaching a lesson

KimberlyAS: that's for any subject

DonnaH: If you don't love reading...it comes out in your read alouds...and who wants to hear a drone?

DonnaH: makes it boring...and doesn't entice.

EmilyTK: books are so engaging and no matter how old the students are they LOVE to be read to.

SherryLM: Children just want to be like their teachers...why do you think they "play" teachers all the time?

RiannH: My Kindergarteners beg to be read to

JenniferMo: makes for a boring experience

MelissaRS: I still like to be read to

AndreaA: I think reading orally is such a great way to get the kids to want to read as well!

AaronT: The great thing is that if you can help one student find a book that they think is fantastic then they are more likely to eventually pursue reading on their own and that is when real learning can start.

EmilyTK: This is such a good topic!

LeslieA: My major is 4th -8th science and I collect all books you can use one for any age

KimberlyAS: do you notice how upper elementary still loves to hear the teacher read?

AshleyG: the art teacher I observed reads books to her students and they all want to go to the library and check that book out...I think it's great

SeidyC: I love when they try to mimic the voices like you read to them.

JenniferMo: There is so much fulfillment for a teacher when his/her student can read an entire book with great joy and excitement.

JanethM: I am enjoying learning the different ideas for language arts!

SarahLH: that is so true. I plan to read to my junior high students all the time.

DonnaH: This book might be better if observing Thanksgiving by name is difficult...its a Jane Yolen book called "Harvest Home"

MelissaRS: this has been a great night. I am getting so much great information

AndreaA: I have been in a fifth grade class all semester and they love to hear their teacher or me read!

MikeRa: Sherry, my 6 year [old] plays teacher all the time. That is when she isn't playing another staff person at school. Great point

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0152018190/qid=1069288525/sr=1-130/ref=sr_1_130/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

JenniferMo: that's what keeps their interests

TiffanyT: it has been my experience that no matter what book it is if you make it interesting they love to hear it

LeslieA: I read a Halloween picture book to a 6th grade science class and they loved it

DonnaH: (problem with read alouds is time...you don't always have the luxury)

JenniferMo: My professor reads aloud to us every class period and I still love it.

AndreaA: there should always be time to read to the children! even if it's just ten to fifteen minutes!

RiannH: I try to make a point of incorporating books into as many lessons as possible to make the time

SherryLM: I read to my children's lit books to my mom...she loves them!

SusanNH: I think it is interesting that the book gives a summary of harvest customs around the world.

DonnaH: Agreeing and seeing it done are two separate ideas though.

MelissaRS: I wish we could get parents to read at home to their children

JenniferMo: The possibility to incorporate books into lessons is endless

LeslieA: My intro to middle school teaching teacher read to us every day for the first 5 minutes in college

IlianaP: I think you have to make time. I promised myself that I will read at least one time to my students everyday when I become a teacher.

JenniferMo: it should be mandatory Melissa

AaronT: I was curious what any of you thought about books on tape and how they could be used effectively. I have a great set of books read by Roald Dahl.

DonnaH: Just realistically...there are so many things to stuff into the day...you may NOT have the time.

EmilyTK: my SBTE's favorite saying is I have one minute and I'm going to use it with something! there's time its just realizing that the three minutes before lunch can be used with a read aloud rather than off task behaviors we tend to see in the classroom.

AndreaA: I've seen it done daily, and it's great!

KathyHoa: My SBTE reads everyday to her class

LaurenK: Those teachers that stood out to me in my childhood are those that read aloud

DonnaH: Books on tape...should be at the readers level...or only a step or two above.

AshleyG: in Katy isd....they have DEAR time....they read for like 30 minutes or so

AshleyG: the kids love it...whether they are reading to themselves or if the teacher is reading to them

KimberlyAS: I have heard of DEAR

DonnaH: otherwise they don't follow the actual story...at least as reading practice.

NancySa: Donna...would you suggest having kids participate in any reader's theater that incorporates Thanksgiving?

SherryLM: As adults...we should have Daily Oral Reading too!

SeidyC: at HE they read between breaks

JanethM: What is DEAR?

SusanNH: My second grade SBTE has a listening center where her students can listen to books on tape.

EmilyTK: drop everything and read

JenniferMo: I took reading one step further with my TIP. My students created their own narratives and published them. They loved it!

DonnaH: (we have SSR...only the middle school uses DEAR)

DonnaH: (silent sustained reading)

KimberlyAS: I think tapes help children learn how to read, they become more fluent

DonnaH: which means reading to yourself.

LeslieA: In Cy-Fair ISD they read at least 2 days a week in advisory..they bring their own book to class and the teacher starts by reading one first..the kids love it

DonnaH: I actually like using books that are based on songs for that...it really helps their fluidity in their reading.

SeidyC: they can also hear different adults or peers read too

DonnaH: (but that is SUCH a tangent)

TiffanyV: my SBTE has a stage that is her classroom Reader's Theatre....everyday one student gets to read aloud before school is dismissed

MelissaRS: in high school we were to read for the first 10 minutes of every class period and that was the best way to get us to read because our English teacher checked us and asked questions every so often

TiffanyT: oh yeah kids love to sing

TiffanyT: children sorry

LaurenK: good idea for fluency

DonnaH: (maybe that needs to be a session...books based on songs...)

AaronT: Comics have been shown to be a great source of vocabulary words for any level of reader.

LourdesA: My teacher does that too Tiffany

KristenDS: The pre-k students love books that are also songs like down by the bay

MelissaRS: that would be a great session

JenniferMo: Reader's theater is a favorite at my school

DonnaH: (tucks that note aside)

SarahLH: Kimberly, I agree with you. I am working with a fifth grader right now, and it really helps her to follow along with a tape or with me reading to her. we read together sometimes, too, and it really helps her fluency.

KimberlyAS: definitely

MikeRa: The singing idea is the one I see work super for kids

JenniferMo: that's a good idea, after all, fluency is so important

LeslieA: Re: comics, I read Mad Magazine in the 6th grade and expanded by vocabulary and political understanding

SusanNH: There is a book that is about being thankful that is based on a song that I saw at the bookstore today.

SherryLM: I always make up songs...

DonnaH: Yes its called Grateful...

IlianaP: Music always plays a very important part in learning

SherryLM: Music really helps children learn

JenniferMo: I wish I could do that Sherry

DonnaH: the cd is sung by Art Garfunkel

MikeRa: Mad Magazine -- I want to take your class

CorinaP: The read alongs with the tapes are a favorite with my 1st grader

SusanNH: Yep that's it. I couldn't remember the title and the book did come with the cd.

LaurenK: music always spices things up

AshleyG: kids love to act out and sing....they are so fun to watch too

TiffanyT: that's true Ashley

DonnaH: I thought to share it, but what I saw about it...it was a bit too...well, maybe not religious, but spiritual...

AaronT: Songs/ music is great for diversity, because not every student learns in the same way.

JenniferMo: very true Ashley

SeidyC: they remember things better that way

KimberlyAS: they are so engaged when singing

CorinaP: I agree with Lauren, music does definitely liven things up

NancySa: good point Aaron

DonnaH: Its just another modality to tap into.

JenniferMo: good point Aaron

TiffanyV: it does....they really love singing....I hated it as kid though?

AndreaA: music is also great to represent a period in time

IlianaP: Yes acting is great! They love to imagine that they are someone else.

AshleyG: kids do the darndest things!

AndreaA: music is a big part of my life and I hope to incorporate it in my class as well

SusanNH: I agree that it was spiritual.

DonnaH: I hate to do this...but the topic is going a bit too far off the beaten path...

DonnaH: Did you actually read it Susan?

IlianaP: Me too Andrea

DonnaH: (I only read the summary and reviews)

CorinaP: although I think that you have to research what type of music will adhere to the literature you are representing, such as classical, jazz, etc.

SherryLM: Think about it...can you remember the 8th president? I bet you can remember all 50 states in order though

IlianaP: You are right Donna

AndreaA: that's been true for a while

DonnaH: Could you see using it in school? or was it really more of a parent/child book?

LeslieA: Yes Sherry I know the song still..it's been 30 years

SherryLM smiles

CorinaP: Leslie, I used to read Mad Magazine too, didn't know someone even noticed that in these days.

SusanNH: Yes I did because I am teaching a lesson on being thankful where the kids are going to write one thing they are thankful for and I saw the book and the title and I thought great this would be good to use. When I read it I decided against it.

DonnaH: Glad to hear my gut instinct was right then...I did think about it.

KathyHoa: It was a good thing you read it first

DonnaH: But lets move on to another book:)

JanethM: Great

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0590255630/qid=1069288252/sr=1-99/ref=sr_1_99/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

DonnaH: "the Thanksgiving Wish"

DonnaH: now it says its for 4-8...but when I read the summary...the contents sounded a bit older than that.

AshleyG: never read it, but it looks and sounds good

MikeRa: 4 - 8 Age or grade?

DonnaH: (age, not grade)

IlianaP: It seems like a very soothing type of book, I like it.

TiffanyT: That would be a great journal topic....what they would wish for?

JenniferMo: I can see how the students would enjoy this book

CorinaP: never read it but is it the American version of Thanksgiving or the Indians?

LourdesA: I think it would definitely be better for older students

DonnaH: (if you scroll down, you can read the summary)

KathyHoa: It seems like a sad book

SherryLM: If you just joined the room...Indians are from India...we say Native Americans

KathyHoa: but in the end it turns out ok

NancySa: it might be sad...but there may be students who can relate to it..

DonnaH: But I can see how it could be upsetting too.

SusanNH: This is a good book to use because some students may be able to relate to it and be in a similar situation.

TiffanyT: oh I'm sure there would be some Nancy

LeslieA: You could do a lesson and have them pretend they lived at that time and write in their journal

EmilyTK: woohooo! all these great ideas and books! I'm soo excited to implement them

DonnaH: they say 4 years old...and I think that was a very poor decision based on what I've seen.

JenniferMo: I think books they can relate to mean more to them and encourage them to read more

LourdesA: I agree Donna, seems too heavy

NancySa: yes

TiffanyT: at four they really won't get the big picture

KathyHoa: on the review it says 6 to 9 though

KathyHoa: that is still young though

DonnaH: I can imagine my 4 year old freaking out..."is grandma going to die? what will we do? "etc etc etc...

SherryLM: Children that young do not understand the concept of death

AshleyG: no they don't

KimberlyAS: I agree

JenniferMo: I don't think so either

DonnaH: Amazon lists the reading ages as 4-8

IlianaP: That is right Sherry

TiffanyV: I don't think it's exciting or interesting for the attention span of a 4 yr old

AshleyG: I think that's a little to young to rate it

DonnaH: I think it depends on the child...

SeidyC: but what happens to those that can relate to that

DonnaH: okay. next story.

IlianaP: However, that could be a small start

MikeRa: Yes kids that young can have a great deal of trouble with death

AshleyG: I'm sure there are a few young ones that can relate to it though

RiannH: It may be useful for children that have, however -- even the young ones (4)

JenniferMo: I agree with Donna, every child's situation is different, some might be able to relate or comprehend

AndreaA: are their any great ideas that will incorporate those children who do NOT celebrate Thanksgiving Day?

DonnaH: I really like the concept of this one...its called the memory cupboard

DonnaH: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0807550558/qid=1069287769/sr=1-15/ref=sr_1_15/103-5666064-5194240?v=glance&s=books

KristenDS: Thanks a good question, something to consider

JenniferMo: Just have a class discussion on what they are thankful for in their everyday lives, not for just Thanksgiving

JanethM: Yes, true, are there any ideas for students who do not celebrate Thanksgiving?

DonnaH: it takes place during Tday...but I think what it really shows is family dynamics and traditions...

DonnaH: (that aren't related to Tday)

AndreaA: in my class today, everyone was talking about where they were going for T.Day and this little boy came up to me and told me, "I don't celebrate Thanksgiving Day. I'm from Romania"

LourdesA: This one looks good

KathyHoa: it is a great book to talk about memories and traditions

AshleyG: not that I'm aware of

RiannH: And you can still teach the concept of the holiday, teach them why it is celebrated (child-friendly version)

JanethM: Well, we do have to take students who do not celebrate Thanksgiving into consideration, after all, we are teachers.

CorinaP: incorporate it in a social studies atmosphere of being thankful for the community, friends, etc, maybe

JenniferMo: great book to read, this could happen to anyone and everyone

DonnaH: Usually, around here, its Jehovah's Witness's we need to take care with.

DonnaH: So instead of doing thanksgiving specifically, we'll study turkeys...or we'll study native Americans...or the pilgrims.

JenniferMo: even Jehovah's Witness's can be thankful without being offended

TiffanyV: the school I'm student teaching at doesn't celebrate any holidays or have parties

AaronT: I think that all holidays are potential problems that is why we need to focus on ideas or concepts rather than traditional practices

AndreaA: I told him that it was okay because he probably had holidays he celebrated that we have never heard of and would he please share them with me...

DonnaH: things are that in the theme without being holiday-ish

RiannH: Like I said we can still tell them about why Thanksgiving Day exists

NancySa: that's what my SBTE does in her classroom

LeslieA: I have friends who are from India and they celebrate Thanksgiving by brining their family to visit here...They live here so they honor it

KathyHoa: but some traditional practices are important too

KristenDS: Yes, stick to the history and content.

KathyHoa: maybe not teach it but talk about different ones

CorinaP: Awesome Andrea, your response was so smooth and understanding.

DonnaH: Should ask him if his family would share with the class.

AshleyG: yes, Kristen....because we wouldn't want to leave anyone out either

AshleyG: there are so many different cultures and beliefs that it would almost be impossible to cover all

KathyHoa: It would be a great idea to have students share their different holidays and celebrations

CorinaP: I agree with Kimberly, birthdays are special

AndreaA: I think as long as we try to discuss and learn about as many traditions from all cultures (esp. the ones in our classes) we will be cool

TiffanyT: That's true Andrea...just teach about other cultures and you should be safe

DonnaH: However, would you believe, the session is just over.

EmilyTK: Donna GREAT session!!!!!!

JenniferMo: I enjoyed typing/talking with everyone...bye

KristenDS: Thank you Donna for your insight and the literature ideas

DonnaH: This one is a list of all the urls we shared, and the ones we didn't get to.

DonnaH: <http://www.backflip.com/members/donnamh/12698923/sort=0/>

JenniferMo: Yes, I enjoyed all the book suggestions, thanks.

IlianaP: Thank you Donna for the insight and resources!!!