

Title of Session: Language Arts Forum
Moderator: Sandra Shattuck
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Room: After School Online Room

SusanR joined the room.

SandraS: Hi, Sue.

SusanR: Hi Sandra. What is the LA topic this evening?

SandraS: I love reading your profile on Tapped In, cuz you've got such interesting stuff.

SandraS: Well, since I logged in for helpdesk and just volunteered to facilitate, I'm thinkin' we should decide together on the topic.

SusanR: Thank you. Since I am a K to 8 teacher I have my hand in everything.

SandraS: Anything intriguing you these days? puzzling you?

SandraS: you've got some great resources on your profile

SandraS: very helpful

SandraS: maybe we could start by saying a bit about each other

SandraS: even though I know I've met you before on Tapped In!

SusanR: I should look at your profile.

SandraS: ok

SandraS: that would be quicker, probably

JeffC joined the room.

SandraS: Hi, Jeff.

SandraS: I'm standing in for Donna tonight.

JeffC waves

SandraS: Sue and I are just deciding what we want the topic for this evening's discussion to be.

SusanR looks at Sandra's profile!

JeffC nods

SandraS: do you have anything, Jeff, that you want addressed?

JeffC: sure... take a look at this: <http://snipurl.com/cooperebay>

BjB joined the room.

JeffC waves to BJ

BjB waves hi.

SandraS: wow, Jeff. that's cute, funny, provocative

JeffC: Feel free to offer criticism... ideas to make it better.

SandraS: i'll take some time to peruse

SandraS: it's a great idea

SandraS: Sue, you there?

SusanR: wow! you are innovative as well as creative, Jeff

JeffC: hey... somebody had to do it

SusanR: I am here

SandraS: great!

SandraS: ok, we got tons of innovation and creation right here in this cyberspace room

SandraS: what do we want to talk about?

SandraS: language arts...

SandraS: I'm dealing mostly with writing these days

SandraS: my own and students' and teachers teaching writing

JeffC: I'm hoping if I get lucky... I can get it going like the guy who sold his (not) wife's wedding dress... or the guy who made over 3,000 on his ghostbuster's outfit.

SusanR: Have you offered your services as Tech Coordinator to elementary or middle schools?

SandraS: I saw the wedding dress ad and that was hysterical!

SusanR: There was someone who tried to sell his soul on ebay

SandraS: great question, Sue

SandraS: for real?

SandraS: I'm seeing all kinds of potential...

JeffC: I've looked for those jobs Susan... none available around here I'm afraid...

SandraS: ok, here's a question

SandraS: since you both work with different levels of students

SandraS: do you see any basic difference between younger and older students

SandraS: using technology to learn language arts?

SandraS: I'm thinkin' that younger students learn differently with IT

SandraS: and that maybe they can teach us how to teach older and sometimes technophobic students

SandraS: I don't know if that's a topic

SandraS: but perhaps how to deal with technophobia in students and in instructors?

SandraS: particularly regarding language arts

SandraS: any other ideas for discussion?

JeffC: well... that's why I got started with Newsday

SandraS listens

JeffC: brb

SandraS: Sue, what are you doing these days that gets you excited about language arts/

JeffC: <http://snipurl.com/netc1>

JeffC: Check out that... the first paragraph pretty much tells the story.

SandraS: Jeff, is this article you mentioned in WriteTalk that you got published?

JeffC: right

SandraS: this would be a great article to discuss because you start out with writing

SandraS: also see that you use WritingProject stuff

JeffC: Yup... Bay Area Writing Project... ever been there?

SusanR: novel studies.. I started The Chocolate Touch with a Spec Ed class...

SandraS: Sue, can you explain?

SusanR: and watched a rehearsal of The Tempest by a grade 6 class..impressive

SandraS: I'm impressed...grade 6, The Tempest???

SandraS: The Chocolate Touch is a novel, Sue?

SusanR: yes

SandraS: did you choose it for the Spec Ed class?

SandraS: and if so, why did you choose that novel?

SusanR: yes, one moment

SusanR:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0440412897/103-3782738-3103828?v=glance>

JeffC: Unfortunately... I have to run... gotta pick up the kids... btw... did anyone notice that Andy Kaufman supposedly returned?

<http://news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/040519/234/726q1.html>

SusanR: Take a quick look inside the book

JeffC: I'll stay logged in to see what develops here.

JeffC afks

SandraS: wow, Sue,

SandraS: published 2 years before I was born...

SandraS: sounds great

SandraS: noticed there's a teachers' resource book

SusanR: Isn't he a comedian who died in 91 or 92

SandraS: I know...that's what I thought about Andy Kaufman...strange

SusanR: yes Sandra

SandraS: what age group is your special ed class?

SandraS: and how are they doing with the novel?

SusanR: I spent a week or so in the class..grade 4 to 6 ..esl

SandraS: does the book work especially well for esl students?

SusanR: They enjoyed it..I left it with the classroom teacher

SandraS: so you act as a visiting scholar/teacher?

SusanR: Chocolate Fever is along the same line as well Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory.

SandraS: I like the sound of the chocolate touch because of the Midas retelling

SusanR: Students use the web to study the origins and history of chocolate.

SandraS: oh, cool

SandraS: so you do an interdisciplinary language arts mini-unit, sort of...

SusanR: They usually celebrate by having some type of chocolate party

SusanR: yes, Sandra

SandraS: but of course....one would have to...

SandraS: chocolate could be a great crosscultural topic, too

SandraS: what first languages do most of the esl students speak?

SusanR: arabic

SandraS: so when you say you're doing novel studies, does that mean there's a certain guideline for working with the novel in the classroom?

SandraS loves teaching novels, so she is curious

SusanR: most of the students are Muslim

SandraS: do you know _Habibi_ by Naomi Shihab Nye?

SusanR: you try to use the novel to meet the various strands and expectations of the curriculum

SandraS: vocabulary, grammar, writing, for instance?

SusanR: no I don't

SandraS: Naomi Shihab Nye is a Palestinian American poet

SandraS: and she has a young adult novel called _Habibi_

SusanR: right..sometimes we use historical novels for Social Studies

SandraS: I used it in an MA class I taught for English high school teachers

SandraS: it's not really an historical novel
SandraS: the main character is an American girl
SandraS: her dad is Palestinian
SandraS: they move to Israel for a year or so
SandraS: we had heated discussions in the grad. class about using young adult literature
SandraS: I think the novel is beautifully written
SandraS: several of the teachers felt any young adult lit. is just too simple for high school students
SandraS: but I think those folks tend to honor the classics above all
SandraS: although, I'm not sure
SusanR: I will try to get a hold of the novel...
SandraS: "young adult" is such a strange category
SandraS: because I've read writers who educate and entertain me more effectively than many "adult" writers
SandraS: for instance, Philip Pullman's His Dark Materials trilogy
SandraS: not sure I have the author right
SandraS: Sue, how do you find that working with the web in conjunction with teaching a novel improves the teaching/learning experience?
SusanR: I gathered resources..ie questions and related activities
SandraS listens
SusanR: http://www.mce.k12tn.net/reading2/chocolate_touch.htm
SusanR: Great for literature circles or group meetings
SandraS: there's some great stuff there. thanks for the link. I've bookmarked it and will go through it more thoroughly
SusanR: . o O (the web certainly improves the teaching experience..)
SusanR: you have to be selective with the learning experience
SandraS: how do you think it improves the teaching experience?
SusanR: I was going to use this webquest
<http://www.bridge-rayn.org/Janine/webquest/intro.htm>
SandraS: did you use it?
SusanR: Not yet! If I return to the teaching assignment I will
SandraS: it's great to find texts that are so well supported by web activities
SandraS: the web can both reinforce and expand students' reading/writing/thinking skills
SusanR: This integrates with math <http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/aapple/webquest.htm>
SandraS: very cool
SandraS: it looks as if these sites are all by individual teachers all over the place
SusanR: Teachers are using novels like this one to engage and sustain students' interest during the last 6 weeks of school
SusanR nods
SandraS: ah yes....
SandraS: a huge challenge!
SandraS: also seems that using the web automatically invites interdisciplinary work
SandraS: a more holistic approach to a topic
SusanR agrees
SandraS: hmmm.... one of the critiques of current education is that it's too specialized, compartmentalized

SandraS: I wonder if the use of the web is changing that any

SandraS: one might think that the use of technology would divide up the sciences and the arts even more so

SandraS: but it looks like there's much more crossdisciplinary work

SandraS: Sue, I've got an appointment at 8pm, so I'm going to have to log off. I really enjoyed talking with you

SandraS: thank you so much for sharing your resources

SandraS: I'll be thinking about some of the things you mentioned

SusanR: same here..talk to you soon..

SandraS: yes, hope to talk with you soon, too.

SandraS: take care

SandraS left the room (signed off).

SusanR left the room.