

**Title of Session:** K-12 Language Arts - December Holidays

**Moderator:** Karen Lemmons

**Title of File:** 20071220k12langarts

**Date:** December 20, 2007

Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

**BJB2:** Ready to share what you've got for us today, Karen?

**KarenL:** Well, let me see. I have a few sites and I do mean a few!

**KarenL:** this session may end early!

**BJB2:** . o O ( did you get a chance to look at the Moslem site I sent from LM Net? )

**KarenL:** Should we begin with introductions?

**BJB2:** we can....

**SusanR:** I may have to leave early..going skiing

**BJB2:** I teach remedial communication in Pennsylvania

**KarenL:** I got your email, and meant to check it out before this evening. If you have that site, we could start with that.

**BJB2:** <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6505674.html?q=3Deid>

**KarenL:** I have two general holiday websites and then I have one or two specific sites for Hanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

**SusanR** listens and looks

**BJB2:** everyone get the site I posted?

**BJB2:** about Islamic holidays and observances

**KarenL:** I did. Thank you very much. She raises a very valid point. And, as a librarian, whether or not I teach Muslim children, I should be familiar with Islamic holidays and observances.

**KarenL:** I am familiar with Ramadan, though.

**BJB2:** "Ramadan is not considered a celebration but a religious observance akin to Lent. It is a time of hunger, thirst, sacrifice and hardship. During Ramadan, practicing Muslims

do not have parties, sing songs, exchange gifts or play games."

**KarenL:** Right, and I mention Ramadan when talking about different observances akin to Lent.

**KarenL:** Okay, let's begin with the general website about holidays. It is "okay."  
<http://www.holidays.net>

**BJB2:** the problem with lumping all the December holidays together is that they lose some of their individuality

**BJB2** . o O ( Hanukkah becomes the "Jewish Christmas" )

**KarenL:** So true. . .

**SusanR:** yes

**BJB2** . o O ( great opportunity to discuss why people celebrate )

**KarenL:** By adding the "Christmas" (aka shopping/gifts) to it, it could lose its true meaning.

**BJB2** nods solemnly

**KarenL:** Hmm, that would be a good writing assignment for students. I can only imagine the answers they would write.

**KarenL:** Knowing a few of my students, some of them would say "I don't know. We just do."

**BJB2:** in my arts and literacy discussion we looked at the solstice...let me see if I have the urls

**KarenL:** Okay, my next general website talks about holiday books. <http://childrensbooks.about.com/od/holidays>

**JeffC:** well... the religion of America is shopping, right?

**BJB2:** <http://www.clarkfoundation.org/astro-utah/vondel/solsticewin.html>

**BJB2:** <http://www.clarkfoundation.org/astro-utah/vondel/FestivalsOfLight.html>

**BJB2:** this is from the Annenberg site <http://www.learner.org/redirect/december/ssl5.html>

**BJB2** . o O ( free, but you have to register )

**KarenL:** hmmm the winter solstice is tomorrow, right before my yoga class!

**BJB2:** my favorite time of the year...now the days will start getting longer!

**KarenL:** Cool! let's go to Hanukkah. <http://www.chanukah99.com>

**KarenL:** next is Christmas. <http://www.howstuffworks.com/christmas.htm>

**KarenL:** Kwanzaa follows. <http://officialkwanzaawebsite.org>

**KarenL:** oops! <http://officialkwanzaawebsite.org>

**KarenL:** How are we doing? That's all I have to share. . .

**BJB2:** what other holidays are there in December, Karen?

**KarenL** thinks she needs to change the book. . .

**KarenL:** Hmmm, I don't know. Do you know of any more?

**SusanR:** you have covered a lot of territory

**BJB2:** Dwali - Hindu festival of light

**BJB2:** St. Lucia Day and St. Nicholas Day

**KarenL:** Oops! Fascinating. . .okay, do we have some information on them? Or does holiday.net include them?

**KarenL:** Let me check. <http://www.holidays.net>

**SusanR:** We need a survival guide

**SusanR:** There is Festivus

**SusanR** . o O ( the December holiday invented by Frank Costanza on Seinfeld. Instead of a Christmas tree there is a pole, which is central to the "airing of grievances" between family members )

**BJB2:** [http://www.everythingsesl.net/lessons/light\\_festivals.php](http://www.everythingsesl.net/lessons/light_festivals.php)

**SusanR:** on a lighter note <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HQFLqMyo0fo>

**KarenL:** fascinating!

**KarenL:** thanks, Sue! that is a lighter note!

**BJB2** smiles

**SusanR:** a bit of a laugh to get us thro' the holidays

**KarenL:** true. we will need a laugh!

**KarenL:** Okay, this is it for me. BJ, do you have something else to share?

**BJB2:** nope.

**SusanR:** Thanks Karen

**BJB2** . o O ( for a short session we've been at it for 45 minutes! )

**KarenL:** Thank you all for coming and supporting me and this session!

**JeffC:** thanks Karen

**SusanR:** my pleasure

**KarenL:** Hmmm, so much for short, huh?

**KarenL:** And thanks for supporting me throughout the year!

**BJB2:** Thanks, Karen. Happy Holidays. See you in January for the collaborative SSForum discussion on Jane Austin

**BJB2** . o O ( January 9 )

**KarenL:** I was just about to mention that!

**BJB2:** should be very good. PBS stuff usually is.

**KarenL:** And, BJ, February we will be sharing some AA sites with the Social Studies group.

**SusanR:** goodnight

**BJB2:** I think Michael has scheduled the African American Lives for January 30

**KarenL:** Then, in March we can begin our session at our regular time!

**SusanR:** goodnight

**BJB2** smiles. Goodnight!

**SusanR**: and happy holidays

**KarenL**: goodnight, Sue, Happy holidays to you!

**KarenL**: Happy holidays, BJ and Jeff! See you next year!