

Title of Session: Fanfiction
Moderator: Patricia Pierce
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Room: Fanfiction Group

PatriciaP1: before we start, pls ck the whiteboard for discussion topics

BJB2: thanks, Pat!

PatriciaP1: how about the 1st topic. Has anyone ever wished they could change something or some character in a book?

BJB2: Let's start with introductions, please. Tell Pat where you're located and what you teach or hope to teach

BJB2: I teach communication and am located in Pennsylvania

PatriciaP1: my name is Pat and I am a graduate student. I currently assist in a 7th and 8th grade language arts classroom. I'm hoping to get a position as a computer teacher in the district where I work.

MariaAy: I am in Houston, I am a student teacher at elementary level

PatriciaP1: what grade level do you teach?

BJB2: looks like Maria might want to change some elementary level stories

BJB2: what grade do you hope to teach, Maria?

PatriciaP1: I just wrote a story in the fanfiction.net online community. I also received 2 reviews so far. It was fun.

MariaAy: well, I just try to learn how I can enhance my own writing skills and then help my students

MariaAy: third or fourth

PatriciaP1: are you with primary students?

MariaAy: yes

BJB2: do you have a link to your fanfiction.net story, Pat?

PatriciaP1: I taught Kindergarten and 2nd grade before I made a switch this year

MariaAy: I guess that as soon as I start teaching I will find my right place

PatriciaP1: just go on fanfiction.net and under books you'll find Tuck Everlasting. I'm under PattIP. I attended a workshop last fall and it was entitled, you should be a writer to teach writing

BJB2: thanks, Pat www.fanfiction.net

BJB2: hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url, Maria

MariaAy: thanks Pat

PatriciaP1: I'm finding this to be sooo true the more I'm with this grade level

BJB2: yowza! LOTS of books!

PatriciaP1: if I remember correctly, I called it As the Years Went By

PatriciaP1: the Harry Potter group is really amazing and quite large

PatriciaP1: if you click on the word reviews in red, read some of the reviews

MariaAy: I have always loved writing my self, although my first language is Spanish and I still struggle with English

JeffC: what's your user name there, Pat? there are 176 entries for "Tuck Everlasting."

PatriciaP1: if for anything else, it shows that they have made groups of friends that share the same interest in writing

PatriciaP1: PattIP

JeffC: found it: http://www.fanfiction.net/s/4124991/1/Years_Went_By

MariaAy: great

PatriciaP1: I'm a little embarrassed now. I was trying to get my feet wet

PatriciaP1: I'm almost finished writing my thesis, and it really centers on how kids are writing a lot, and so well online, but in the classroom, it's like pulling teeth. They are bored with pen and paper.

MariaAy: I was going to ask you about it

BJB2: so you think that electronic text is more appealing to students?

PatriciaP1: yes

MariaAy: any suggestions to motivate my future students

PatriciaP1: I wanted to research how this can be used in the classroom. Possibly a blog or even a wiki seems to be options

PatriciaP1: I just wrote a unit on flat stanley

MariaAy: kids would love that

PatriciaP1: you can post comprehension questions on a class blog and have the students respond

JeffC: over 350,000 Harry Potters!

MariaAy: I really do not know about flat satnley

PatriciaP1: I know. they are amazing

PatriciaP1: I have only a few weeks left to work on my thesis, and I plan to really get into some fanfiction writing

PatriciaP1: it's interesting and a lot of fun

PatriciaP1: peerfeed is also another topic I'm interested in. The people writing in the fanfiction group if anything offer encouragement

MariaAy: that's great

PatriciaP1: oh. Flat Stanley is a cute beginning chapter book about a boy who is crushed by a bulletin board and it is then flat

PatriciaP1: the kids love it

MariaAy: I have heard about it , but I have not been able to read it

PatriciaP1: how about the classroom you work in, how are they using technology?

MariaAy: they use it to teach about power point and other educational programs

MariaAy: students do not really write much

PatriciaP1: have they written "How to be Poems"

PatriciaP1: at the end of the year my students and I would write "how to be a 2nd grader" and pass it along to the 1st graders.

JeffC: good one Pat

MariaAy: students do not write much

PatriciaP1: as a project in one of my grad classes I turned it into how to be Mrs P. Read books, drink coffee, see broadways plays...

PatriciaP1: did you say you were with 3rd and 4th grade

MariaAy: in fourth

PatriciaP1: what books are they interested in

MariaAy: students do not even write in Spanish much

PatriciaP1: do they like technology?

MariaAy: I like to read all kinds of books

PatriciaP1: using technology is a great way for them to practice writing

MariaAy: they do , but they just play games or reinforce concept using different programs

PatriciaP1: did they take the NJ ASK

MariaAy: My daughter loves to read, she can read several books in a week, and I can see that she easily writes about anything, she's very creative

PatriciaP1: that's great. I've noticed the best writers in my classes are readers too

PatriciaP1: problem is you can't get the others to see that

MariaAy: I guess students do not have the opportunity to be creative and they do not develop the writing skills they need

PatriciaP1: you've said the right word...opportunity

MariaAy: Many times they just use worksheets for all their lessons and teachers do not encourage writing

PatriciaP1: the one teacher I work with gives the kids writing prompts everyday. for

some kids, it's like pulling teeth to get them to write

PatriciaP1: too many worksheets go on in the classroom

MariaAy: I am thinking about having a journal and write on it for a few minutes every day

PatriciaP1: me too

PatriciaP1: creative writing is what I'm interested in

MariaAy: I agree

PatriciaP1: it's amazing how well some of the kids write stories in the classroom I'm in

MariaAy: that's wonderful

PatriciaP1: the workshop I attended really made me see this

BJB2: do you write while the children are writing, Pat?

MariaAy: I am planning to have many writing opportunities for my students as soon as I start teaching

PatriciaP1: no, I have a few students I work with

PatriciaP1: but I'm learning a lot

MariaAy: what do they like to write about?

PatriciaP1: I try to have them make it personal. find a connection to whatever the writing prompt is about it is easier to write that way

MariaAy: you are right, they can write about whatever they want

PatriciaP1: today they had to write about a girl who invented something

MariaAy: I think this is the best way to make the students be interested in writing

PatriciaP1: I worked with one boy who likes bikes

PatriciaP1: I encouraged him to write about something that the girl would invent to help bikes ride more quickly or something like that. he started, but time ran out

MariaAy: what happened? did he enjoy it?

PatriciaP1: another boy I worked with likes sports

PatriciaP1: he wrote about a sport drink

MariaAy: I guess time is another limitation, we are constantly rushing

PatriciaP1: it really does help when you make some type of connection to what you're writing

MariaAy: that's true

PatriciaP1: they are practicing for the NJ ASK test, and timing is something they have to be aware of

MariaAy: can you tell me more about fanfiction?

PatriciaP1: fanfiction is taking a book and rewriting from another char's point of view, or rewriting a scene, anything like that. teachers have been using this strategy for a long time, but technology has not become a part of it...just not in the classroom yet.

PatriciaP1: I meant technology is now a part of it...sorry

MariaAy: interesting!

PatriciaP1: since kids are writing online, as educators we need to bring the two together in the classroom as well

MariaAy: do you discuss your rewriting part with other people?

PatriciaP1: in the classroom or outside the classroom

PatriciaP1: my professor is involved in fanfiction and has got me interested in it as well

MariaAy: I guess it depends on what you rewrote

PatriciaP1: I need to end a little early tonight

BJB2: thanks, Pat. Nice discussion.

MariaAy: no problem, it was very interesting

BJB2: The next FanFiction discussion will be on May 12

MariaAy: thanks

PatriciaP1: Maria, keep up the good work. keep your students writing, and I hope you

join us again next month