

Title of Session: K-12 Language Arts - May Celebrations!

Moderator: Karen Lemmons

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Room: K-12 Language Arts Group

AmyW joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Amy. Good job!

AmyW: will we just chat back and forth?

DeannaB joined the room.

BJB2: When Karen logs in we will do introductions

BJB2: good, Deanna

DeannaB: hi

BJB2: Have you participated in calendar events before, Amy and Deanna?

AmyW: no this is my first

DeannaB: no

BJB2: ahhh....you're in for a treat! Karen always has such great resources to share

DeannaB: cool

AmyW: I can't wait

BJB2: we start all events in Tapped In with introductions. Usually you say where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

BJB2: then Karen guides the discussion

DeannaB: located in Apex, NC... I am a kindergarten teacher in a year round school, track 2

AmyW: I teach kindergarten near Raleigh NC

RebeccaDer: I teach k-5 science in Raleigh, NC

DeannaB: neat

BJB2 . o O (now hold the thought and say that again when Karen logs in :-)

BJB2: a reminder that when the discussion starts you might want to go to Actions in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

RebeccaDer: why?

AmyW: I don't see actions

BJB2: top right of the chat window

DeannaB: got it

AmyW: got it

BJB2: you can also go to Actions and select Larger Text

BJB2 . o O (I can't read that tiny text!)

DeannaB: yes

BJB2: I think the techies are in cahoots with the glasses manufacturers ;-)

AmyW: too bad I already wear them!

BJB2 grins...likewise!

BJB2 paces the floor nervously, looking for Karen

KarenL joined the room.

KarenL: Oh my goodness!!!

KarenL: Hello everyone!!!

BJB2 sighs with relief...cutting it a little close, Karen!

RebeccaDer: Hello

KarenL laughs, I know

KarenL: I got caught up with some good links. . .

BJB2: Okay, team....show Karen what you learned....do your intros!

KarenL: which reminds me I need to change the image

BJB2 . o O (Karen, you also might want to introduce yourself to the group)

AmyW: I am a kindergarten teacher near Raleigh NC

BJB2: This is Amy and Deanna's first Tapped in event. Rebecca is a pro

KarenL: Okay, I'll start. My name is Karen. I'm a librarian in an elementary school in Detroit Michigan.

RebeccaDer: I am a K-5 Science Teacher in Raleigh, NC

KarenL: My sister lives near Raleigh, NC.

KarenL: I've been to Raleigh. Very nice. . .

DeannaB: I live in Raleigh as well, I teach in Apex

RebeccaDer: I've been to Detroit

DeannaB: I used to live in Detroit

KarenL: Now, you can be honest about Detroit. . .

KarenL: Really, Deanna? Where?

BJB2 . o O (poor Detroit)

DeannaB: I lived on Selfridge air national guard base???

KarenL: The Mount Clemens area, I'm familiar with that!

DeannaB: yep

KarenL: I figure we hit rock bottom with the former mayor and his scandal, the losing lions, the auto industry, and, of course our schools.

BJB2 wonders if Karen is ready to get started with those great links?

KarenL: so I figure the only we can go is up!

KarenL: Yes, I'm digressing.

BJB2 nods solemnly to Karen about going up

DeannaB: yes

KarenL: Now, as you know May has many celebrations. I'm going to start with one that might not be as well known as the others.

KarenL: May is Get Caught Reading Month.

KarenL: Children's book week is now in May instead of November. So, here are some resources for Children's book week.

KarenL: here is the "official" site for get caught reading month.
<http://www.getcaughtreading.org>

BJB2 . o O (this is applicable to all disciplines...so you can do this in science class too, Rebecca)

BJB2: you may need to hold down the ctrl key when you click on the url...

BJB2: ctrl overrides pop up blockers

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the site?

AmyW: I can't get there

DeannaB: me either

BJB2: Amy, did you hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard?

AmyW: yeah

BJB2: a new tab or window should open for you

DeannaB: got it

BJB2: make sure you don't have any minimized windows

AmyW left the room (signed off).

BJB2: oops

KarenL: uh-oh. . .

DeannaB: she will be back...

BJB2 watches for Amy in Reception

KarenL: Rebecca come back.

KarenL: did everyone else get the site?

DeannaB: I did

KarenL: cool!

DeannaB: do I look around now?

AmyW joined the room.

RebeccaDer: I can't get it

BJB2: excellent, Amy!

KarenL: Okay, let's go the National Children's Book Week. .
[.http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=682](http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=682)

BJB2: Rebecca, did you look for minimized windows

DeannaB: got it

BJB2: make sure you hold down ctrl when you click on the url

BJB2: or turn off your pop up blockers

RebeccaDer: got it

KarenL: Hi Amy! Welcome!

BJB2: whew...great, Rebecca

AmyW: sorry! I'm having issues

AmyW left the room (signed off).

AmyW joined the room.

KarenL: that's okay. We all have them. .

BJB2: yikes!

RebeccaDer: I typed get caught reading in a search engine and found it that way

BJB2: Amy, are you on a wireless connection?

AmyW: no

AmyW: can you send me the link again please

BJB2: do you have any idea why you are losing your connection?

RebeccaDer: I would search for get caught reading

BJB2: http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=682

AmyW: I accidentally closed it when I was trying to get into the link

RebeccaDer: that's how I found it

BJB2: whatever works for you, Rebecca!

AmyW: I got it that time

KarenL: Now, if you know any early childhood teachers, there is an early childhood reading grant. It is due May 31st. Here is the info:

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

DeannaB: I am an early childhood teacher

BJB2: write quickly, Deanna!

DeannaB: ha

DeannaB: I am looking at the sight now

KarenL: or, start writing for next year. Hopefully, Target will offer it again. . .

DeannaB: looks interesting, thanks!

AmyW: we could all use grants!

DeannaB: that's for sure!

KarenL: yes. and you should check Target often. They have offered grants for field trips and other activities.

BJB2 . o O (there is a Grreat Grants room in Tapped In with some resources)

KarenL: Target is definitely pro-reading/literacy.

KarenL: Okay, let's switch gears.

KarenL: May is also Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. One good resource is:

KarenL: http://www.readwritethink.org/calendar/calendar_day.asp?id=723

DeannaB: nice

KarenL: gosh do we only have 13 minutes left? Geezopeet!!!

DeannaB: do you have any good books that has to do with character development

KarenL: Okay, a general resource that I highly recommend is thinkfinity. Either daily, weekly or monthly, thinkfinity features topics. With Memorial Day coming, Thinkfinity naturally features Memorial day.

KarenL: Character development in terms of honesty?

BJB2: Karen, you started at 8:30...go till 9:30

BJB2 . o O (unless the game is really good?!)

KarenL: Whew!!!! I forgot. The game is good, but shhhhhhhh!!!

BJB2 winks

RebeccaDer: I've used thinkfinity before. That site has good lesson plans

KarenL: It is great. Rebecca, since you are a Science person, are you familiar with Discovery Education?

AmyW: are the lesson plans for all age groups?

DeannaB: Author's purpose of writing the story

RebeccaDer: yes

KarenL: yes.

DeannaB: cool

KarenL: Deanna, one of my favorite authors that write with a purpose is Kevin Henkes. I just read one of his books today, Sheila Rae the Brave.

KarenL: He also wrote Chrysanthemum, about a girl with an unusual name and how she

deals with it.

DeannaB: oh thanks! perfect

DeannaB: I read Chrysanthemum, loved it

KarenL: He also wrote a book on Friendship. Shoot, the title escapes me. It will come to me.

AmyW: I will have to check these out

AmyW: I was a lateral entry teacher and I am learning new resources and ideas and websites daily

KarenL: Another author is Juanita Havill. She wrote some books on Jamaica. One is Jamaica and the Substitute Teacher. Jamaica cheats on a test, and gets caught by the teacher.

AmyW: I feel like I've taught myself and missed out on a lot of helpful information by not having my undergrad in edu

KarenL: Another one in the series is Jamaica and her Find, or something like that. Jamaica finds something that belongs to someone else. She wants to keep it. .

DeannaB: thanks

KarenL: Does that get you started?

DeannaB: sure does

KarenL: Now, if all else fails, Google character education and literature. You should be able to come up with some suitable websites.

DeannaB: I will look into that...

DeannaB: Thank you for sharing, this is a great site

KarenL: Oh, the Kevin Henkes book is Chester's Way.

DeannaB: cute book

AmyW: Our school is revamping some things for next year...what does your school use as a guideline for how many sight words you require kindergarteners to know?

DeannaB: 25 I believe

KarenL: Well, our school district uses Open Court and the expectation is about 50.

KarenL: By first grade, students should know at least 100 common words plus sight words.

DeannaB: thats nice

KarenL: Oh yes, and the Jamaica book title is Jamaica's Find.

DeannaB: I know our children need to be on a bench mark level of 3-4 instructional level

AmyW: yeah that is the standard at my school too

KarenL: Does North Carolina have English/language arts standards?

AmyW: however there is a debate of whether or not it should be raised

DeannaB: yep, lots of objectives

AmyW: yessssss

AmyW: there are some disagreements though

DeannaB: language arts a very important part of the day

AmyW: a huge part of my day

DeannaB: readers' workshop??? have you heard of that

AmyW: actually most of my day with bits and pieces of other topics linked

AmyW: I have ...but haven't been

DeannaB: we use it at our school

AmyW: I did just complete the reading foundations training

DeannaB: gotcha

RebeccaDer: don't forget about science

AmyW: we don't have it at our school

KarenL: The Open Court Reading Program "encourages" (hint: demands) at least 3 hours of the school day.

AmyW: I haven't forgotten anything...they are kind of linked

AmyW: but the majority of my day is spent in language

KarenL: Rebecca, and science is so important. But, I can honestly tell you, we have self-contained classrooms and most teachers teach their strengths.

RebeccaDer: yes they are linked but students need the hands-on experiences

KarenL: Most of the strengths are in ELA or Math. Very little in Science. It is unfortunate because our 5th grade students get assessed in Science. Unless it is taught from Kindergarten and up, Students are less than proficient.

RebeccaDer: NC students are tested as well

KarenL: The Open Court REading does try to integrate Science and Social Studies in the program. But sometimes that is glossed over. . .

RebeccaDer: it's part of a teacher's job to learn to be comfortable with all subjects

KarenL: I totally agree with you, and I'm a librarian. I am "comfortable" with ELA, information literacy and social studies, even a little art.

KarenL: But math and science, not so much.

DeannaB: true

KarenL: I could teach Science from an earth science perspective, but simple machines, or experiments, hmmm

AmyW: I am still becoming more comfortable

AmyW: I am constantly coming up with new ideas or reading new info on all the subjects

KarenL: At least we are becoming more comfortable, because I see the demands on teachers increasing. . .

RebeccaDer: experiments aren't hard

KarenL smiles

KarenL: No, just setting them up. And I teach in a library, with class changes every hour.

KarenL: It would take a lot of help and organization. . .

RebeccaDer: my classes change every hour

RebeccaDer: I see 600 students in my 7 day rotation

KarenL: Okay, okay, okay, you win!!! I see your point. . .it is something I could do. . .

BJB2: Karen, I think if you help the children with their observation skills, that will help them with Science! Keep a weather chart...do predictions, etc.

KarenL: I wouldn't have to do experiments every day. . .

KarenL: Weather, yep, I can handle that!

BJB2 nods...lots of things related to science that don't need labs

BJB2: Do you agree, Rebecca?

KarenL: Did we lose Rebecca?

BJB2: what else can Karen do? Reading fact booksdifference between fact and fiction

RebeccaDer: I think experiments are important but I think that it's also important to tap into their multiple intelligences

KarenL: I do read both fiction and nonfiction. . .

KarenL: Okay, give me some examples. . .

KarenL: for the kinetic person, we could do. . .

BJB2: reading, pictures, podcasts, dance?

RebeccaDer: use movement to explore the states of matter

RebeccaDer: life cycles

AmyW: I use both fiction and nonfiction also

AmyW: the students LOVE life cycles

RebeccaDer: do you teach in NC Amy?

AmyW: actually they love most "real world" events/discussions

AmyW: yes

RebeccaDer: life cycles is a second grade objective not kindergarten

BJB2: I think that all of that is so cross curricular...science needs to be integrated into all the subjects

AmyW: yeah

AmyW: I don't elaborate on it

AmyW: but...I do have a few simple books around my room that we read and talk about

AmyW: mostly when the students pick them up and bring them over and ask to read it

KarenL: I'm ready. . .

KarenL: life cycles very interesting. . .

AmyW: we do talk about animals in kindergarten and when students find something that is interestingwe talk about it

RebeccaDer: students should be observing animals...pillbugs, snails, fish, etc.

KarenL: oh yes, animals. . .

AmyW: everything can be a "teachable moment"

RebeccaDer: I understand

KarenL: we talk about baby animals in first grade, sea animals in kindergarten,

BJB2: cycles can be a lot of things too...what came first, what comes next, etc.

KarenL: I am teaching a little science!

KarenL: dinosaurs in second grade,

AmyW: def sequencing activities

KarenL: third grade hmmm,

KarenL: fourth grade, medicine, fifth grade astronomy,

AmyW: it even comes in the Scholastic magazine

KarenL: I've been teaching a little science! how bout that!

BJB2 cheers for Karen

AmyW: we use "Let's Find Out" and they talk about where a snake comes from
...sequencing

KarenL: okay, I'm getting this!

BJB2: that's why kids have such a huge adjustment when they enter middle school....they
don't get that multiple discipline approach

KarenL: no they don't, and I believe students should get the multiple/integrated
discipline approach.

BJB2 agrees. I sure learn better that way!

KarenL: so should high school. Then students will see connections, not fragments.

BJB2 wonders if Amy is gone

BJB2 agrees with Karen there too

BJB2 . o O (but what do we know ;-))

KarenL: yep, we lost Amy and Deanna. . .

KarenL: I know, I'm just a librarian. . .

KarenL: no ph.d, no "expert" in education reform. . .

RebeccaDer left the room (signed off).

KarenL: oh dear, it's just the two of us. . .

BJB2: oops...and then there were none

BJB2: you almost made it to the half hour...and I think the participants enjoyed the
discussion

KarenL laughs

BJB2 . o O (maybe they're off watching the game!)

KarenL: I hope so. . .I mean I feel bad the participants just signoff and leave me. . .

KarenL: I was thinking maybe it was my breath!

BJB2: yeah, that was a bit rude...but they're newbies. Probably don't know any better

BJB2 checks Karen's breath...it's ok

KarenL: yes, I'm trying not to take it personally. Glad my breath passes the test. . .

BJB2 smiles...don't take it personally. People just don't 'get' the reality of TI sometimes...

KarenL: well, I'm going to sign-off and change the image.

BJB2: I'm sure they wouldn't be so rude in real life

BJB2 hugs goodnight. Thanks for a good discussion.

KarenL: Next month, we'll be back to 8:00 pm, third Wednesday?

KarenL: Thank you!

BJB2: Lesley is still scheduled for 7:30, so if it's not a problem...I'd keep the 8:30 time

KarenL: 8:30 is fine! I would love to be in her session!

KarenL: Okay, until next time. . .take care of yourself and the artistic grandbaby!