

Virginia

Wordless Books as Useful Tools: Building Literacy Skills for Struggling Readers

Arlington Career Center

816 South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, Va. 22204; 703-228-2507; FAX 703-228-5815

Submitted By: Ann Kennedy, Louise Vogel and Ruth Bilodeau

Wordless books will be used with fourteen immigrant students (ages seventeen to twenty) whose literacy levels are at the second and third grade levels. These sophisticated, content-centered wordless books will serve as stimulus for the students to use their own “voice” to create the story elements to accompany the illustrations. The students will use tape recorders to record their story elements. These tapes will be shared with fellow students. The students will partner with the children in the pre-school program and share their stories with them as well. This program will help to motivate students to read more at school as well as at home and in community libraries.

Hurricane Isabel Revisited

Belle View Elementary School

6701 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, Va. 22307; 703-660-8307; FAX 703-660-8397

Submitted By: Mark Tierney, Jane Broome, Mary Anne Nash and Melissa Tisnado

This school-wide project will involve all the students at Belle View Elementary School. The students will document and archive Hurricane Isabel’s devastating impact on the Belle View community and its subsequent recovery from the natural disaster. The kindergarten through fourth grade students will research different aspects of the hurricane and videotape their findings. The footage will then be edited and produced by the fifth and sixth graders. This project will expand the students’ knowledge of weather and how it impacted their local community as well as showing the students how their community responded to a natural disaster.

Common Ground Through Literature

Canterbury Woods Elementary School

4910 Willet Drive, Annandale, Va. 22003; 703-764-5600; FAX 703-764-5697

Submitted By: Johnna Tselides, Marge Tabellario and Erinn Smith-Delss

Common Ground Through Literature is a program for a class of fifth graders at Canterbury Woods Elementary School. These students will be partnering with a fifth grade class in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. The students in both classes will read books from the Virginia and Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice programs and then share their opinions, ideas and reactions with each other. Through the correspondence about the selected titles, the students will have the opportunity to relate personal experiences, explore cultural and racial similarities and differences as well as develop an understanding of each authors craft. Also, they will be able to share personal interests as they relate to the titles read.

Beyond the Bayou and Into Cajun Culture

Rachel Carson Middle School

13618 McLearen Road, Herndon, Va. 20171; 703-925-3600; FAX 703-925-3697

Submitted By: Pai Rosenthal

Rachel Carson Middle School students and their families will learn about and experience Cajun culture. Students in the French classes will conduct research on Cajun Culture and Mardi Gras/Carnival. The students will share their findings with each other and then create a PowerPoint presentation weaving together all the topics they have studied. The entire student body will be invited to form krewes (Carnival social groups) to create floats related to the themes of Mardi Gras. The floats will be displayed for the whole school to see. The culminating activity will be an evening of Cajun culture that will include storytelling, crafts projects, cooking as well as a musical performance by the Cajun band Sweet Bayou who will teach traditional Cajun dance.

Exploring Ocean Food Chains

Claremont Immersion Elementary School

4700 South Chesterfield Road, Arlington, Va. 22209; 703-228-2500; FAX 703-820-4264

Submitted By: Philip Handmaker

The students in this bilingual fifth grade class will visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore and closely observe marine habitats. Back at school they will study food webs in particular habitats, create three-dimensional models of organisms and photograph a series of scenes showing how the organisms interact. The students will write stories about their research and illustrate them using digital slide shows. They will then share their presentations with the second grade students. All of these activities will be done in Spanish.

Mobile Habitat Centers

Corpus Christi School

3301 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church, Va. 22041; 703-820-7450; FAX 703-820-9635

Submitted By: Eileen Liberti and Jack Melone

The students at Corpus Christi School will create two different mobile habitat centers. The first will be a land/water habitat incorporating local plants and creatures and the second will be a desert habitat. These two different habitats will allow for comparison and exploration of less familiar species. The mobile habitats will be used in every grade level at the school. They will serve as an introduction to inquiry-based science throughout the school.

Cooking Up the Content Areas

Ellis Elementary School

8800 Rixlew Lane, Manassas, Va. 20109; 703-365-0287; FAX 703-365-0257

Submitted By: Stacey Collazo and Kristina McDougal

Cooking Up the Content Areas is a multi-sensory approach to teaching the content areas through various cooking experiences. The students in the Autism class and the Severe

Disabilities class will work on Language Arts by reading recipes. They will study Math by measuring ingredients. Science will be studied through the observation of the physical, chemical and color changes in cooking food. Social Studies will be taught by learning about asking for, and waiting for turns, and listening and sitting quietly. Students will use their fine motor skills while participating in this program. This project will create new ways for the special education students to study the content areas.

Showcase of Civil Rights in Education Narrative: The R.R. Moten School Experience

Falls Church High School

7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church, Va. 22042; 703-207-4000; FAX 703-207-4097

Submitted By: Anne Pegram

In order to further explore the impact of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, the ninth grade students enrolled in the Transitional English 9 class at Falls Church High School will conduct interviews with African American alumni of the R.R. Moten High School from Prince Edward County, Va. The students will be interviewing alumni about their educational experiences during the 1950's and 1960's, when the public schools in Prince Edward County were closed to avoid desegregation. From the narratives and interviews with these former students and utilizing archival materials, the students will create a multimedia presentation of their work. This presentation will be presented to the R.R. Moten Museum in Prince Edward County.

The Wolfpack Book Club – It's a Howlin' Good Time

Francis C. Hammond Middle School

4646 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va. 22304; 703-461-4100; FAX 703-461-4111

Submitted By: Sara Schafer

The Wolfpack Book Club is a program designed to excite students about reading. The sixth grade students will select a book and join a teacher-led book group. At the completion of reading each book, the sub-groups will create a final presentation to be shared with the entire group. In addition to engaging students in literature and keeping them energized about reading, this project is intended to foster a sense of community, collaboration and cooperation amongst the students and teachers.

A Taste of Science

Francis C. Hammond Middle School

4646 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va. 22304; 703-461-4100; FAX 703-461-4111

Submitted By: Nancy Bort

Students in the Life Science classes will be introduced to different science topics through the use of food and cooking. The students will study living organisms like bacteria by making their own yogurt. The yogurt will then be used to make cheese to make cheesecake. The study process will continue with the preparation of "seaweed salads" as a means of studying the plant kingdom. Other foods used in this program will include

fruits and edible forms of fungi. The students will extend their learning to the community by inviting their parents to enjoy the “food” from their science class.

Book Circles for High School ESOL Students

Freedom High School

15201 Neabsco Mills Road, Woodbridge, Va. 22191; 703-583-1405; FAX 703-583-2394

Submitted By: Christina LaRaia-Gray

Book Circles is a student-centered activity in which students work in small groups while reading the same book. The students will read together helping each other understand the text and discussing it with each other. In order to improve their writing skills, after finishing each book, the students will write a response in their reading response journals. This program will help English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) II students improve their reading skills as well as instilling an enjoyment of reading.

Making Learning Happen – Hands On!

Freedom Hill Elementary School, 1945 Lord Fairfax Road, Vienna, Va. 703-506-7844;

FAX 703-506-7897

Submitted By: Jeanne Porter, Patricia Minardi, Erin Stegelmeyer, Olivia Kim, Jean Witt, Grace Lawson, Cheryl West and Paula Backman

Making Learning Happen – Hands On! is a hands-on approach to teaching and enriching the lives of the pre-school children who have special needs and/or are at risk for learning delays. The program will bring Reptiles Alive! to the school for an “in-school” field trip. Reptiles Alive! will bring their reptiles into the classroom and present small-group sessions with live reptiles to the students. The students will get a chance to see, hear, smell and touch the reptiles. This program will also have an at home component where the teachers will teach parents the value of real experiences and how to follow up with learning activities with their children.

Outdoor Classroom

Frost Middle School

4101 Picket Road, Fairfax, Va. 22032; 703-426-5700; FAX 703-503-2697

Submitted By: Cathleen Faraj, Jennifer Roache-Buchanan and Carlos Budding

The ESOL science classes and the regular life science classes at Frost Middle School started a garden project in 2004. For the 2005 Outdoor Classroom program the students will set up composting bins and four experimental gardens. In the experimental gardens the students will grow the same kinds of vegetables but use different composting materials. They can then compare the results of the different gardens. This program is highly beneficial to the students as the hands-on experience reinforces and expands the concepts taught in the science program.

Peterson's Guides Are Not Just for Birds Anymore

George Mason Middle School

7124 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Va. 22043; 703-248-5550; FAX 703-248-5533

Submitted By: Kathleen Taylor

As part of the Science Curriculum on watersheds, the sixth grade students at George Mason Middle School will use field guides to study and observe live tide pool organisms. The students will have the chance to observe sea urchins, sea cucumbers, starfish, clams, crabs and a variety of seaweed. After observing and studying the organisms, students will then chose one organism and research its characteristics. The students' research will be compiled into a class book. The project will help students recognize the importance of a tide pool to a healthy ecosystem.

Reaching Reluctant Readers

George Washington Middle School

1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22301; 703-706-4500; FAX 703-706-4507

Submitted By: Nancy Howard and Diana Darwin

The purpose of this program is to engage reluctant readers in reading on a regular basis. Using books on tape will increase their confidence and comprehension. The students participating in this program will be students who have tested below average during reading comprehension tests.

Tornado Machine

Grace Miller Elementary School

6248 Catlett Road, Bealeton, Va. 22712; 540-439-1913; FAX 540-439-1925

Submitted By: Jayne Hall

After experiencing the effects of the tornadoes in Fauquier County in the fall of 2004, many students at Grace Elementary School expressed fear about tornadoes. This project will be used to demonstrate the structure and movement of tornadoes. The students will learn about the many facets of a tornado, including safety and awareness. The Gifted and Talented students from grades two, three and four will construct the tornado simulator. It will then be used in science classes for all students at the school.

Harmony Outdoor Learning Lab and Nature Trail

Harmony Intermediate School

38174 West Colonial Highway, Hamilton, Va. 20158; 540-338-0800; FAX 540-338-0805

Submitted By: Ken Whetsel

The students in the Nature Club will develop an outdoor learning lab and nature trail. This project will encourage awareness, appreciation, knowledge and active conservation of natural resources. An outdoor learning lab with a classroom, wildlife sanctuaries and wetland stations will peak student interest in the world around them. It will also establish the importance of natural resource conservation and wildlife habitat. The finished project will be available to all students as well as the local community.

Triple Play Makes For Reading Everyday

Montclair Elementary School

4920 Tallowood Drive, Dumfries, Va. 22026; 703-730-1072; FAX 703-878-0356

Submitted By: Erin Majewski

The Triple Play Makes For Reading Everyday program is designed to enhance student literacy by establishing an environment where students have the opportunity to reread books at their independent reading level. Students who have been identified as reading below grade level will participate in this program. The students will work with a teacher to do two different types of readings: choral reading and echo reading. The students will then take the book home and read it aloud several times with a family member. The following day the student will then read the book again with an adult or peer at the school. This program is intended to establish a home/school connection by having parents/guardians take an active role in the their child's literacy development.

Puppets and Poetry

Mt. Daniel Elementary School

2328 North Oak Street, Falls Church, Va. 22046; 703-248-5640; FAX 703-248-5642

Submitted By: Danielle Clark and Anne Delehanty

Puppets and Poetry will be a joint project between students in a first grade classroom receiving special education in language arts and a preschool special needs classroom. Once a month the first grade students will share poem with the preschool class using a puppet. This will help to keep the attention of the young audience as well as assist with their early literacy development. This active engagement of two groups of students will contribute to the development of their language arts skills as well as their growth in the areas of social, speech and language skills.

Cassette Players for Limited English Proficient Students

Mount Vernon Community School

2601 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, Va. 22305; 703-706-4460;

FAX 703-706-4466

Submitted By: Patricia Shumaker Chisholm

This project will provide the Limited English Proficient (LEP) students with more opportunities to listen to and learn the English language. The LEP students will be able to check out a cassette player with headphones to take home. The students will also get a book to go with the story on the tape. Listening to the stories on tape and following along in the book will give the students the opportunity to hear English spoken with correct grammar and pronunciation.

Reading Reel to Real

Park View High School

400 West Laurel Avenue, Sterling, Va. 20164; 703-444-7500; FAX 703-444-7251

Submitted By: Naomi Tuttle, Nora May, Jane Sawyer and Patricia deGuzeman

Sustained Silent Reading takes place for 15 minutes every other day at Park View High School. The goal of this project is to make young adult literature more available for students who may be struggling to learn English and those who may not be reading at grade level. By reading the books and simultaneously listening to the book on CD or cassette, the students will improve word recognition, pronunciation, grammar, fluency and listening skills. They will also develop a greater interest in reading.

WWW.TEAM (Working With Words.TEAM)

Pattie Elementary School

16125 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, Va. 22026; 703-670-3173; FAX 703-583-7233

Submitted By: JeriLynn Hoffman and Kathy Letsky

The WWW.TEAM project is home-school partnership program. It is designed to improve reading and writing performance of low-achieving students by engaging them in hands-on activities with their parents. This will help them read and write words more fluently and accurately. The students will be working with white boards and magnetic letters to strengthen their understanding of how words work and increase their core of known words.

Dual Language Journals for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

Smart's Mill Middle School

850 North King Street, Leesburg, Va. 20176; 703-669-1480; FAX 703-669-1485

Submitted By: Lorraine Stewart

The students in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program at Smart's Mill Middle School will gain an understanding of the value of both their native language, American Sign Language (ASL), and their second language, English, through the use of video and print journal entries. The students will read stories and books and then create a video journal describing their response to the book in ASL. They will then transcribe their video journal in to written English. The students will receive feedback from the teacher in both ASL and written English. Using current technology will help to improve their signed and written communication skills.

Who Gives a Hoot?

Smart's Mill Middle School

850 North King Street, Leesburg, Va. 20176; 703-669-1480; FAX 703-669-1485

Submitted By: Julie Heath

Who Gives a Hoot? is an interdisciplinary project in which students in the sixth grade Honors science class will be reading *Hoot* by Carl Hiassen and participating in a variety of English and science extension activities. As the students read the book they also research the endangered burrowing owls in Florida and California and the conservation efforts to save them. They will learn about public policy decisions that relate to the environment and will study the issues of construction vs. conservation. At the end of the

project the students will adopt a burrowing owl through the Audubon Society's Adopt-a-Bird Program.

The Wreck of the Ethie

St. Rita School

3801 Russell Road, Alexandria, Va. 22305; 703-548-1888; FAX 703-319-9389

Submitted By: Sister Theresa McCrossen, S.S.J.

Hilary Hyland, author of the book, *The Wreck of the Ethie*, will give a presentation at St. Rita School. Her book tells the story of the wreck of the S.S. Essie in 1919 off the coast of Newfoundland and the Newfoundland dog that saved the people on board the ship. This project will help the students learn the geography of Newfoundland, the perils of the sea and the heroism of animals. The students will research, write and illustrate their own stories that will be sent home for Mother's Day.

Literary Snapshots

Sugarland Elementary School

65 Sugarland Run Drive, Sterling, Va. 20164; 703-444-7460; FAX 703-444-7463

Submitted By: Lora Knippers-Davis and Meg Selig

This project is for 25 students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. The students will compile a photo album of their lives. Using disposable cameras they will photograph themselves, their families, their homes, favorite places, hobbies, friends and other things important to them. They will write text to accompany the photographs. This project will help students to build their literacy skills as well as providing them with the opportunity to express their individuality and experience a sense of personal history.

Sunrise Valley Civil War Project

Sunrise Valley Elementary

10824 Cross School Road, Reston, Va. 20191; 703-715-3800; FAX 703-715-3897

Submitted By: Kara Lucas

"The War Between the States" is a comprehensive unit of study that integrates sixth grade curriculum and culminates with an original student-created performance. Drawing upon their investigation of the American Civil War, students will work collaboratively to produce the show. They will create individual characters based on historical facts and use drama, music and creative movement to re-tell the causes and results of the Civil War.

My Heritage Books

Thomas Jefferson Middle School

150 Old Glebe Road, Arlington, Va. 22204; 703-228-5900; FAX 703-979-3744

Submitted By: Campbell Ainsworth and Jenny Kumnick

Throughout the school year the 35 students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) students will write essays about their hometowns, family backgrounds and cultural

traditions. In addition, they will research the history of their language, local legends, recipes and their own genealogy as they compile individual portfolios. They will interview one of their relatives and learn why they decided to come to the U.S. as well as their obstacles and successes. The students will add short stories, photos, poetry and illustrations to their portfolios. The portfolios will then be sent to a publishing company to be bound into books. In May, a “My Heritage” celebration will be held for the families of the students. The families will be asked to bring traditional foods with them and the students will read from their books.

Timber Lane Community Garden Project

Timber Lane Elementary School

2737 West Street, Falls Church, Va. 22046; 703-206-5300, FAX 703-206-5397

Submitted By: Mona Assaf, Susan Kipp, Adam Kline, Karen McLaughlin and Denise Robinson

The goal of this project is to help the Kindergarten and Head Start students at Timber Lane develop a greater understanding of plant life cycles, the beauty and wonder of gardening, the connection between plants, insects and people. The students will work with their families and the school community to take an underused area on school property and transform it into a learning opportunity and an area of visual beauty. The students will prepare, plant, nurture and harvest a variety of common flowers and vegetables. Bug-friendly plants will be integrated to attract beneficial bugs in order to demonstrate how gardens provide an environment to support life.

Tyler’s Virginia Studies 4th Grade SOL Camp

Tyler Elementary School

14595 John Marshall Highway, Gainesville, Va. 20155; 703-754-7181;

FAX 703-754-4869

Submitted By: Rosemary Womack, Irene Fradette, Kristin Ostrander and Tina Romeo

Tyler’s Virginia Studies 4th Grade SOL Camp is week-long in-school camp reviewing for the Virginia Standards of Learning History Test. The camp will be a game and activity format to encourage participation, review and relearning in a non-competitive format. Community volunteers will man 27 stations such as Hollywood Squares, Show Me the People, etc. that will review the necessary information with the students. The culminating activity will be a “Barter Party” where the students will use the tickets they have won from the activities to barter for prizes.

Native American Village

Washington Street United Methodist Preschool

115 South Washington Street, Alexandria, Va. 22308; 703-549-7931; FAX 703-836-8407

Submitted By: Dee Ford

This educational program will teach the three-year-old and preschool children about the diverse Native American cultures. The program will begin with a visit to the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian. At school the children will create a

“village” which will be constructed and decorated by the children. They will create representations of the wide variety of dwellings the Native Americans lived in. The children will also learn about cooking, painting and songs of the Native Americans.

The Wildcat Press

Weems Elementary School

8750 Weems Road, Manassas, Va. 20110; 703-257-8799; FAX 703-257-8786

Submitted By: Joanne Stoehrmann

To improve language arts skills in kindergarten through fifth grade, Weems Elementary School is establishing a publishing center. This center will enable students to compose and publish original, creative language arts projects, such as, stories, poems and other written works. The publishing center will serve all of the students at Weems Elementary. This will help to improve the students’ abilities to reason and express their thoughts through written and oral communication, improve their basic language arts skills as well as elevate their self-esteem.

This Same Sky: Exploring Poetry and Art Through Digital Storytelling

Woodburn School for the Fine and Communicative Arts

3401 Hemlock Drive, Falls Church, Va. 22204; 703-641-8200; FAX 703-641-8297

Submitted By: Thana Vance

Woodburn School for the Fine and Communicative Arts selects a year long theme each school year that is focused on some aspect of storytelling. This year, the theme is This Same Sky: Exploring Poetry and Art Through Digital Storytelling. Part of the theme focuses on students telling stories about their culture and cultures around them through digital literary experiences. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students will take photographs of their communities using digital cameras and then write poems to describe the photos. They will then use the photos and poems to create digital videos. As a way to learn more about the different cultures depicted in the poem, the students will create documentaries of their community and the related culture. As a culminating activity the students will present their videos to each other and to their parents.

Look at That! Using Digital Video to Enhance the Physics Curriculum

Yorktown High School

5201 North 28th Street, Arlington, Va. 22207; 703-228-5400; FAX 703-228-5430

Submitted By: Dan Carroll, Luis Hernandez, Chris Kaldahl, Tricia Pease and Deborah Waldron

The Physics department at Yorktown High will use a digital video camera to capture and analyze physics concepts such as air resistance, acceleration, wave phenomena, circular/periodic motion and energy and momentum. The videos will be paired with video analysis software that allows a given digital video clip to be analyzed frame by frame. This will allow students to be able to view previously unviewable concepts at 1/30th the speed of the actual event. This project will enhance the Physics curriculum by making difficult topics and concepts visual to the human eye.