

Title of Session: Arts & Literacy-Language Arts

Moderator: BJ Berquist

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Room: After School Online Room

BJ: We'll start with introductions for the transcript, if you don't mind.

BJ: yikes, we thought we lost you too, CJ!

BJ cheers for Gary...alright!

CJGst2: Sorry, short attention span

BJ: we usually start the events in Tapped In with introductions.

BJ: I'm an art teacher in a male juvenile correctional facility in Pennsylvania

CJGst2: What would you like to know?

BJ knows all about short attention spans

CJGst2: LOL

BJ: where you are and why you're interested in this discussion, CJ, please

GaryRD: I'm a substitute teacher in Orange County, CA.

BJ . o O (Gary's in it for the participation credit)

BJ: Fred?

CJGst2: I actually have an assignment for my Instructional Technology class where we need to attend an ASO session

BJ chuckles...another materialistic participant!

FredGr: I'm in a distance learning course and we need to attend a session for credit. However, I do enjoy the arts.

BJ: I'll have you all converted to arts advocates by the end of this event!

FredGr: It might be more fun than statistics!

BJ: thanks for being honest, Fred, CJ and Gary

CJGst2: Cool

BJ: something that you should know from the git go...

BJ: Tapped In is designed to provide professional development for educators throughout their careers....

BJ: we have preservice groups up to administrators groups

BJ: and lots of disciplines in between

FredGr: Sounds good!

BJ: the Milwaukee Public School is one of our tenant organizations and provides pd for their teachers through Tapped In

CJGst2: Is there sound I am supposed to hear?

BJ: what I plan on doing is defining visual literacy first

BJ hums a lively tune

BJ: no, CJ, Tapped In is text chat only

BJ . o O (this allows the interface to be available to the lowest common denominator of educator/equipment)

CJGst2: Okay, I'll chat a tune while attending, thanks.

BJ: do you any of you have an idea of what you feel visual lit is?

BJ . o O (or want to take a guess?)

GaryRD: Not really.

FredGr: interpreting messages from a variety of media

FredGr: not just reading

CJGst2: Magazines

BJ: excellent

GaryRD: Visualizing what you read about.

BJ: I'm giving a workshop at a CEA conference on "decoding our culture"

FredGr: I think that's part of it

BJ: In our high tech world we are bombarded with visual images and aural input. Sounds and images pour from our TVs, computers, theaters, concert halls, shopping malls and restaurants. How can we help our students decode this input, make good choices, and become visually and aurally literate in this fast paced culture?

BJ: this has been pretty much my passion for many years now...I always find it fascinating that each person constructs meaning in their own way and sees things that we may not notice or be aware of

FredGr: by decoding and encoding?

BJ: as an observer, you decode

BJ: as a creator you would encode. Do you agree?

FredGr: yes

GaryRD: yes.

CJGst2: agree

JohnnaL joined the room.

BJ: I'm going to show you a url that has a description of visual literacy

BJ: welcome, Johnna. Are you here for arts and literacy?

BJ: <http://www.art-themagazine.com/pages/insite20.htm>

BJ: all the urls will be in your transcript if you are logged in as a member

JohnnaL: yes

BJ: to open the url click on the blue hyperlink

BJ: you may need to hold the ctrl key down as you click if you have a pop up blocker

CJGst2: I think one of the best examples would be comic books, as visual are, right?

GaryRD left the room (signed off).

BJ: we've just discussed a little bit about the definition of visual literacy, Johnna

GaryRD joined the room.

CJGst2: Gary come back

BJ: CJ, there is an archived transcript that I did with The Comic Book Project...I'll see if I can find the url for their site

BJ: Gary, do you need that url for the visual lit article?

GaryRD: I'm back. I looked at the URL and I couldn't get back without coming in from the front door.

BJ nods to Gary. You may want to just open another browser window and copy the urls to the browser

CJGst2: Ah that would be awesome. My husband would love to view it also since that is how he learned to read.

BJ waits for everyone else to be ready to continue

FredGr: ready

GaryRD: Ready

CJGst2: Ready

JohnnaL: ready

BJ: here's the link for the comic book project, CJ <http://www.comicbookproject.org/>

BJ: This a link to another site to help you understand Visual Literacy

BJ: <http://www.vue.org/>

BJ . o O (Visual Understanding in Education)

BJ: From Now On had an article that helps from the other direction...using pictures to stimulate writing and critical thinking:

BJ: <http://www.fno.org/oct03/slamdunk2.html>

CJGst2: Gary I am having the same problem, I just open another window and type the URL in

FredGr: good sites..helpful for this course I'm taking!

BJ: ok...we're just getting warmed up

GaryRD left the room (signed off).

BJ frowns. Poor Gary!

BJ: I'm going to give you two urls for fine arts resources

BJ: one is the National Gallery of Art

BJ: <http://www.nga.gov/>

CJGst2: The Slam Dunk article is really cool, I like the use of the diagramming which is great for visual learners

BJ: I love the inspiration program.

FredGr: A number of my classmates use Inspiration

CJGst2: I instantly clicked on the NGA Kids, I will need to explore more later

CJGst2: What is Inspiration program

GaryRD joined the room.

BJ: Inspiration is a graphic organizer program

BJ: some people call them mind maps

BJ: you can go from a text outline to a graphic organizer

CJGst2: I know mind mapping very well. I am using it in trying to outline my dissertation for topics

BJ nods to CJ

FredGr: it works well for that CJ!

BJ: Gary, I showed the url for the National Gallery of Art <http://www.nga.gov/>

BJ: as a place to get fine arts resources

GaryRD: I guess I'll have to look at it later. I keep getting knocked out when I look at them.

BJ: might be a problem with your browser or with your Java program, Gary

BJ: the other url I wanted to show you for fine arts resources is www.artsconnected.org

GaryRD: Maybe. I'll try to figure it out later.

BJ: the person who wrote the first article on visual lit that I showed you...

BJ: leads a monthly discussion here in Tapped In on how to create gallery exhibits using artsconnected

BJ: and the exhibits can be annotated...allowing for writing activities

BJ: I ran across one site that I thought might be a good example of using music to enhance the visual image and visa versa

CJGst2: Hey some sound!

BJ: Visual Jazz Media Group <http://www.soulsuite.com/Tewodross1.html>

BJ: Music is a wonderful way to help make connections with images...

FredGr: definitely a site to go back to

BJ: and it's fun to listen to music and connect images to the sounds

FredGr: Are there other sites with music?

BJ: I am going to give you my meta backflip folder at the end of this discussion, but, of all times, their server is down until at least Wednesday

CJGst2: In my Instructional Technology class we are finding ways to keep the attention of the audience of different age groups in different subjects. Multimedia is here to stay.

BJ: when backflip is back up, go to www.backflip.com/members/bjberquist

CJGst2: I have used backFlip with this class and found my firewall hated it.

BJ wonders if anyone here is familiar with Jason Ohler's 4th R?

BJ . o O (Kevan Nitzberg quotes him in the first article I showed you)

FredGr: My class uses backflip and it's a great resource

CJGst2: Backflip is also down until I think the site said Wednesday, they were hit big with I think a virus.

GaryRD: oO

JohnnaL left the room.

BJ: do a google for Jason Ohler when you have time...he has some very interesting things to say on the topic of media lit

BJ: OK, Gary...here's how you 'think'

BJ: type /th and your thought

EmilyW joined the room.

BJ: o O (we're deep thinkers in Tapped In)

BJ: Hi, Emily

EmilyW: Hi

GaryRD: o O (oO)

BJ: last topic I'm going to share for this session

BJ: I recently read a quote from Emerson

BJ: What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.

BJ: I had wanted to do some kind of box project and this quote inspired me to do that with my classes

BJ: the boxes were called Cultural Identity Boxes

BJ: each student had to think of 4 cultural identifiers

FredGr: What was put in them and how were they used?

BJ: and then design symbols for each identifier

CJGst2: Can you show us an example?

BJ: when the 4 symbols were complete, the students placed their digital photo on the top and the Emerson quote inside

BJ: I don't have examples of the student boxes, but I have photos of the box I created

BJ: http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/bj_berquist/album?.dir=/8907

BJ: the slideshow gives you better images

BJ: I chose the four identifiers of love, family, inner peace, and creativity

FredGr: very creative!

BJ . o O (I kind of overachieved on this one, but the project really sucked me in!)

BJ: the kids did amazing stuff. They learned about symbols, about cultural identity...about designing an image in a 3 D shape

FredGr: what ages?

BJ: and they had to write reflections in their journals about why they chose the symbols they used

BJ: my kids are 11 - 18

FredGr: tough ages especially with boys

BJ nods sadly...and even harder with incarcerated boys, 80% of whom are LD or have mental health problems

BJ: but, this project worked for most of them because it gave them another way to look at symbols...and on a personal level

BJ: any questions about the stuff I've shown you today?

BJ: I do arts and literacy once a month...

FredGr: lots of good material

CJGst2: Yes, this was an interesting session, thanks

BJ: and try to use various disciplines each month for my topic

GaryRD: No questions.

CJGst2: No questions from me either

FredGr: Nice job..thanks!

BJ: I think the most important thing to remember when you work with anyone...

BJ: is that prior knowledge molds everything that a child learns..

GaryRD: Yes

BJ: our job is to provide lots of new knowledge...visual as well as aural...

BJ: so that the students are better able to construct meaning from what they see and hear

BJ: Thanks so much for joining the discussion, Fred, CJ and Gary

BJ hopes it was worth your time and you'll come back and participate in other Tapped In events

FredGr: This turned out better than expected!

GaryRD: Thank you for everything.

CJGst2: Thank you and so long Fred and Gary

BJ smiles happily. Thanks, Fred

BJ . o O (I think)

FredGr: Bye all!

BJ waves goodnight

CJGst2: BJ I will say you kept my attention span

BJ cheers...cool, CJ!