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Junkyard Dan

The *Junkyard Dan* series by Nox Press is written for high school and adult struggling, emergent and ESL readers. It's a cool, easy-to-read series written on a Flesch-Kincaid reading level of 0.9 (a first-grade reading level), and is written *for* adults, *about* adults, with adult characters in the style of Law & Order, CSI, or Cold Case. (Except instead of being about dead bodies, each book features a different car found in a junkyard.)

These books are not babyish, boring or condescending, and can be used for independent and/or classroom reading to help build the reader's reading muscles and strengthen their skills. There is nothing offensive, dysfunctional or inappropriate in these books--they are just books designed to prove to people who struggle with reading that reading is *not* hard, and *can* be fun and interesting. Each weighs in at approximately 100 pages (and no, there are no pictures--they're regular novels).

Junkyard Dan series can be found at:
www.NoxPress.com

Website Links

Great science link which has the following features:
How It's Made, Brainman, Cool Fuel, and much more.
<http://science.discovery.com/>

Math website from Manitoba:

This site is designed as a one-stop shop for Manitoba high school mathematics teachers. All content is provided free of charge and without acknowledgements - it is intended that you can and will be able to modify the materials as you see fit.
<http://www.mbmth.com/>

American English – Vowel Sounds

<http://www.fonetiks.org/engsou2am.html>

<http://fonetiks.org/index.html>

Online Reading for New Adult Readers

The fall 2007 issue of *Adult Basic Education and Literacy Journal* listed five sites containing “high-interest text written simply and directly for adults with low literacy skills.”

1. The Learning Edge- <http://www.thewclc.ca/edge>, is an interactive, online newspaper for adult learners. It is produced by the Wellington County Learning Center in Arthur, Ontario. It's interesting, topical stories are plainly written for a range of learners. Each story is read aloud slowly and is accompanied by learning activities such as games, puzzles, interactive quizzes, and writing contests. The Learning Edge also has student writings.
2. California Distance Learning Project (CDLP) <http://www.cdlponline.org/> is one of the first Web sites to post articles of interest to adult basic education students. The site is updated regularly with articles on many topics and follow-up questions at several different levels of difficulty.
3. At Fannie Lou Hamer: Freedom Fighter <http://www.writersforliteracy.org/fannielouhamer2.mov>, new adult reader Stephen Gray reads a review he wrote of a book about voting rights advocate Fannie Lou Hamer. It is a very short and interesting read, and it is a great example of what other adult new readers might be able to create.
4. Simple English Wikipedia http://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page, is written by volunteers. Writers use simple English words and simple writing structures. There are over 6,000 pages in this resource.
5. Firstfind.info - <http://firstfind.info>, was created by librarians to help low-literate patrons find information on a variety of carefully chosen Web sites. Topics include health, jobs and job training, housing, education, immigration, and many other high-interest areas. There is also a good, simple introduction for low-literate adults and others about how to use this portal.

Living in the Shadows

Link to ABC News Living in the Shadows: Interviews about the struggles of illiteracy

Interview #1 Living in the Shadows: Monica Baxley

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4336780>

Interview #2 Living in the Shadows: Roger Vredenburg

<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4342598>

Professional Development Online:

<http://professionalstudiesae.worlded.org/>

“Research-based Strategies and Models for Adult Transitions to Postsecondary Education” is being offered starting April 11th.

Some of these courses are free and some have a fee.

Science Fun for Everyone Professional Development Overview Connie Ripplinger, Devils Lake

Sandy Wells presented a motivating science workshop on March 28th and 29th. The participants who included both Twenty First Century and adult ed instructors were well entertained both by the variety of projects and the enthusiasm of the presenter. Sandy did an excellent job of combining science with language skills. The stories that were created to explain the social relationship/competition between animals sharing a common biosphere were very imaginative. The hands on art/science creations allowed for each “student” to be creative while learning the basics of a specific science concept. There was laughter and sharing throughout the conference.



Sandy’s handouts covered a large variety of science themes. The three dimensional results intrigued many of us as we strived to make our projects unique. We had the opportunity to work as individuals and also as members of teams. A generous smattering of snacks, breaks and positive reinforcement kept the atmosphere conducive to learning. Sandy modeled creative, focused, and stimulating methods throughout the two days.

Learning science with Sandy was so much fun that even people passing by our room stopped in to add to the comments. A good time was had by all.

Science Fun for Everyone workshop was held in Bismarck on March 28-29, 2008 for Adult Education and After-School Educators. Sandy Wells was the presenter and did an excellent job!

Everyone went home with a wealth of information and science experiments to use in the classroom. This was a “hands-on” workshop and everyone left with a bag of completed projects and a science workbook. The ideas in this workbook can be incorporated with the science activities used in the classroom.

We learned how to excavate land, make a bug in order to identify the body parts, dissect a flower, make a snake, and much, much more.

If anyone uses the REA GED Science workbook - on page 29- there is a section on flowers and there is a picture of a flower and all the parts of the flower are labeled. Dissecting a flower is a hands-on activity that can be incorporated very easily with this lesson. One After School site has the children pull a flower apart to identify the parts of a flower instead of using a knife to cut the flower apart. The students put the parts of the flower on cotton ball, and then they can take the parts of the flower home in a baggie to show to their parents. Sandy suggested that we talk with our local florists and see if they would donate the flowers that they don’t use for this science project.

Thank you, Sandy, for presenting an excellent workshop. We can match your activities with our science curriculums and the students will have hands-on activities to use in the science classroom.

Laurel Kaae



Becky - with her completed snake!



Sandy Wells helping
Renee Moon

Jill, Becky, and
Ann were having
fun at the
"Science Fun for
Everyone"
workshop



Some science projects
also teach teamwork!

Janice and Cindy work
well together.

The following was not learned at our Science workshop but
has been circulating through emails:

THE HUMAN BODY

The human body is a machine that is full of wonder.

- Scientists say the higher your I.Q. The more you dream.
- The largest cell in the human body is the female egg
and the smallest is the male sperm.
- You use 200 muscles to take one step.
- The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average
man.
- Your big toes have two bones each while the rest
have three.

-A pair of human feet contains 250,000 sweat glands.

-A full bladder is roughly the size of a soft ball.

-The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor
blades.

-The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information
as the Encyclopedia Britannica.

-It takes the food seven seconds to get from your mouth to
your stomach.

-The average human dream lasts 2-3 seconds.

-Men without hair on their chests are more likely to
get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.

-At the moment of conception, you spent about half an
hour as a single cell.

-There is about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.

- Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to
bring half a gallon of water to a boil.

-The enamel in your teeth is the hardest substance in your
body.

-Your teeth start growing 6 months before you are born.

-When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils
dilate, and they do the same when you are looking at
someone you hate.

-Your thumb is the same length of your nose.

(At this very moment I know full well you are putting
this last fact to the test...now remove your thumb
from your nose)

Programs May Suffer

This information was in the Bismarck Tribune on
March 24, 2008.

<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/03/24/news/state/151753.txt>

Local CCLC Programs under New Management

This information was in the Bismarck Tribune on
April 1, 2008-04-01

<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2008/04/01/news/local/152343.txt>