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Children's Literature Project with the Wilkinson After-School Children

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Tonya is a former Williston ALC displaced homemaker student and is currently taking classes at Williston State College. This is one of her projects for Children's Literature class that she incorporated with her CCLC job.

Tonya's Project: *Goodnight Moon*

When I got this assignment to make something creative about a story I enjoyed in my Children's Literature class, I did not know what to do. After I thought about it for a little while, I had this bright idea; I would incorporate my project with my job at the After-School Club. I had the English group for the whole week, so I presented my idea to my supervisor, Denise, and she loved it.

The next day, I read Goodnight Moon to my four groups, and then asked the children to color pictures, add stickers, fabric, and other things and to think of who or what they would say goodnight to that was not in the story. The children came up with a thought that was not in the story; they added saying goodnight to a family.

Each group added their own personal touch to my storyboard. The kindergarten class wanted to put the stars in the window, but they put a lot of them on because a little bit just was not enough. The first and second grades added the curtains and matching rug. The third through sixth graders did most of the coloring, and they put the board together. I added the final touches.

I am proud and honored that the children enjoyed this lesson and the hard work they did to help with my college assignment. I still would have been struggling with this project and probably would have failed it if

the children had not helped me. I never realized how much planning and work teachers put into their jobs every day. I have a new found appreciation for them.

I thanked all the children who helped me with this project, and I am planning to do something special for them all. Also, I learned that when children are contributing their ideas to a reading lesson the story is more enjoyable to them.



20 Tech Habits to Improve Your Life

A few new habits can make the difference between staying on task, finding what you need, and getting things done--or having a tech meltdown.

<http://www.pcworld.ca/news/column/19ea82eec0a80006001d88f63bd8b30c/pg0.htm>

New U.S. Secretary of Education

Arne Duncan has been chosen by President Elect Obama to be the new U.S. Secretary of Education.

For more information:

<http://www.edutopia.org/arne-duncan-education-secretary>

Photo Novels

Ever thought about having your students make photo novels? This idea integrates academics with technology. Photo novels are great educational tools.

Using Powerpoint or Word students can make some great Clipart Comics also. They can insert a picture and also insert the “autosshapes” to make the speech balloons.

Some sites to look at are:

<http://www.photonovela.com/index.php>

<http://esl.adultinstruction.org/ClipArtComics.htm>

<http://www.pimpampum.net/bubblr/>

Text Messaging Abbreviations

Anyone who does any sort of texting or instant messaging knows there are a lot of abbreviations! Not sure what all of the abbreviations mean? This website gives an extensive list of abbreviations: http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/textmessageabbreviations.asp

This website also links you to smiley face icons and auction abbreviations. ☺ :-)

Technology Tools To help the Struggling Reader

This website has a large list of other websites that focus on teaching vocabulary.

<http://techteachers.com/conferences/readstruggling.htm>

New Naturalization Test

Submitted by David Massey

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security launched its [new naturalization test](#) Oct. 1. The test was redesigned to ensure that naturalization applicants have uniform, consistent testing experiences nationwide. The redesigned test includes revised civics questions to better assess applicants' understanding of U.S. government and history. The format is standardized across USCIS offices. Applicants now know exactly how to prepare for the English test using publicly released [vocabulary lists](#), and they receive a new English and civics [study booklet](#) when they are finger printed at USCIS application support centers. USCIS [trained](#) more than 2,000 educators and service providers and launched new [study materials](#).

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=2de5bece24e7b110VgnVCM1000004718190aRCRD>

The Bridge to Literacy

John Corcoran has a new book called “The Bridge to Literacy”. He also wrote “The Teacher Who Couldn’t Read” in the 1990’s. He is a literacy advocate and has some things to say in USA Today. To read his article: http://www.usatoday.com/news/education/2008-12-01-corcoran-literacy_N.htm

He also has a website: <http://www.johncorcoranfoundation.com/>

His story is sad and amazing. He sat in the ‘dumb row’ when in school. He went to college, taught school, and became a successful business man. He finally decided to attend a Literacy Center and learn to read.

He believes that teachers should be teaching students the tools of phonemic awareness. John Corcoran’s story can be found at:

<http://www.johncorcoranfoundation.com/johnstori.htm>

Multiage Education

Older students mentor younger students and also model good behavior in a multiage classroom. There are many different ways to have a multiage classroom or a specific class. For more information on multiage education go to the following websites or Google ‘multiage education’!

<http://www.edutopia.org/multiage-classroom-looping-peer-mentoring>

<http://www.multiage-education.com/>

<http://www.multiage-education.com/index.html>

<http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/methods/instrctn/in500.htm>

<http://www.concentric.net/~ahenson/homepage.html> (math instruction in multiage classroom)

May I have a Word with you?

Word 2007 is much different than Word 2003. Here are some tips and tricks to make learning Word 2007 easier!

You have written a document and you want to be able to “protect” the document, but don’t know how in Word 2007? Well, first you need to add the **Developer** tab to your ribbon. To do this:

1. Click on the Office Button
 2. Click on Word Options at the bottom of the list
 3. Put a checkmark in Show Developer Tab in Window.
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Snowflake Activities

The Home Science Tools website has some fun activities for kids. The snowflake activity would be fun to do for this time of year.

<http://www.hometrainingtools.com/articles/snowflake-science-projects.html>

Kidzone

Kidzone has some fun pages to do with free printable worksheets. Ideas are listed by topic or by age.

<http://www.kidzone.ws/phonics/index.htm>

Multiplication Fun

To help kids learn multiplication they can make a multiplication garland.

Multiplication garland:

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathLearningMultiplicationGarlandDeviceK4.htm>

DLTK Printables

Need to make a bingo card, custom tag, dominoes, memory cards? This website has many templates and will walk you through creating your own.

<http://www.dltk-cards.com/>

Email Resume Tip

Make sure your resume is not being put in a spam filter when emailing to a prospective employer. Kim Komando has information on this at:

<http://www.komando.com/cool/sites/>

Another source for information is:

http://www.job-hunt.org/article_antispam.shtml

