

Reading News

From Your Reading Coach
Wretha Webb, Altha School

Altha School Reading News

November/ December, 2007

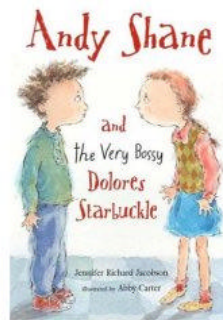
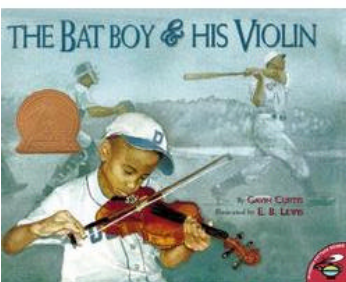
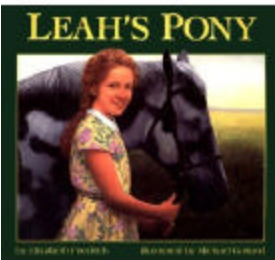
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What Do Horses Have to do With Books?

Why everything, of course, when you're reading a book called, *Leah's Pony* by Elizabeth Friedrich. What a wonderful book week during the week of November 12! After hearing the story, *Leah's Pony*, students in PreK-5th grades got to pat and touch Shada and Stormy, horses that Mrs. Webb brought to school for the children to experience. Students in Pre-K-5 also got to hear Joan Alderman and Seth Alderman share their talents with story and song during book week. I also want to say, "Great Job" to our media specialists,

Winifred Waldorff and Sara Waldorff, for the "book week" contests. Thank you Mr. Brogdon, for arranging channel 7 news anchor, Neysa Wilkins, to share her love of reading with your 4th graders. It was a great week!



Reading Endorsement Classes for Competency 2 will be on-line. It's time to register for this free class. See Wretha or Kay Tipton for more information.

What's This About a Book Party?

The "book party" for elementary teachers was held on November 6. Teachers chose donated books from our book drive so they could add to their classroom library. Good food and good books. What more could anyone want?

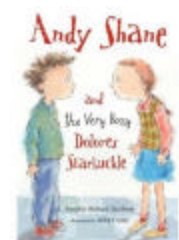
Middle and High School Book Party on Thursday, November 8

There will be another "book party". This time it will be for grades 6-12 teachers. It will be in the media center on Thursday, November 8, at 2:50. There will be an opportunity for these teachers to choose free books that were donated during the book drive. Hope to see you there!



Readers' Theater is a great strategy to use when practicing fluency with your students. Not only is it an effective fluency strategy, but the students love it!

I've created a Readers' Theater from the book, *Andy Shane and the Very Bossy Dolores Starbuckle*. Mrs. Joan Alderman read this book to some of our classes, and everyone thought it was wonderful. If you're interested in a copy of the Readers' Theater, I've put it in the teacher shared files in the Wretha Webb file. Help yourself. If you'd like more information on using Readers' Theater with your students, please let me know!



Please share Action Research

Remember... If you are doing any action research with your students, **please let me or Ladona**

Winter Assessments:

DIBELS (All K-5) January 23– February 5

FORF (All students in 6th-8th) January 23– February 5

FORF (Level 1 and 2 students in grades 9-12) January 23– February 5

Gates-MacGinitie– Begins January 8 (Level 1 and 2 Students in 4th-12th)

TOWRE– Begins January 23 (Level 1 and 2 students in grades 4-12)

Thinklinks Reading & Math– Will begin January 9. Schedules will be in applicable teachers' boxes. (All grades 3-10 & level 1 and 2 students in grades 11 & 12 will take these tests.)

Thinklinks Science– Will begin January 9. Schedules will be your box. (students in grades 3-8 and grade 11)

Reading is snow delicious!! Just give me a good book and a snowy day...Paradise!



K-3 Teachers: Dr. Clay and Abe Hodges from Reading Plus will be here at 8:00 on Friday, December 7. Have questions ready!

Have a great Holiday Season. May God's Richest blessing fall on YOU!



Reading Strategy of the Month

Silent Sustained Reading

(SSR) is a simple, but extremely effective strategy to use with your students. According to research (*Building Background Knowledge for Academic Achievement* by Marzano), SSR is wonderful for building student vocabulary and background knowledge. We know that background knowledge and vocabulary are necessary for comprehension. We also know from research statistics that students who have consistent SSR (above a 10 month period), have moved from the 50th %tile in reading to the 81st %tile in reading. That's a whole quartile! Just be sure when you use SSR that you:

provide SSR time consistently, monitor students with reading logs and follow-ups from their reading (such as book journals). If you'd like more information about how to implement a successful SSR program, see me. This is not restricted to reading classes!

Reminder

Teacher Professional Development Opportunities

From teacher comments, I feel that the Thinklink Training (using reports) on October 24 was of much benefit to those who came. If you feel you need to have more training using the Thinklink Reports, let me know, and I will schedule a time with you.

I have organized the Teacher Reading In-service Needs Assessment that I received from you and will be planning professional development opportunities that will be on-going throughout the year according to your needs.

Remember, nothing is written in stone. If you need professional development on anything concerning reading, let me know. I can work with large groups, small groups, and one on one.

Altha School Book Review Corner Have a great book to share in our reading newsletter?...let me know!

This month, we're featuring Middle and High School books suggested by Ladona Kelley.

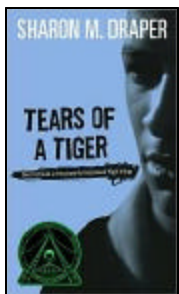
Heat

by Mick Lupica

A great book for boys (or girls) who love baseball.



Michael Arroyo has a pitching arm that throws serious heat. But his firepower is nothing compared to the heat Michael faces in his day-to-day life. Newly orphaned after his father led the family's escape from Cuba, Michael's only family is his seventeen-year old brother Carlos. If Social Services hears of their situation, they will be separated in the foster-care system—or worse, sent back to Cuba. Together, the boys carry on alone, dodging bills and anyone who asks too many questions. But then someone wonders how a twelve-year-old boy could possibly throw with as much power as Michael Arroyo throws. With no way to prove his age, no birth certificate, and no parent to fight for his cause, Michael's secret world is blown wide open, and he discovers that family can come from the most unexpected sources.



Tears of a Tiger

by Sharon Draper

After a car accident kills Robert, Andy's best friend and teammate on the Hazelwood High Tigers, Andy doesn't know if he can go on. He's consumed with guilt for driving the night of the accident after a long evening of drinking and partying. With perceptiveness and compassion, Draper portrays an African-American teenager who feels driven to consider suicide in the wake of a devastating tragedy.

Forged by Fire by Sharon Draper is a very good read for middle and high school students! Check it out!



When Gerald was a child he was fascinated by fire. But fire is dangerous and powerful, and tragedy strikes. His substance-addicted mother is taken from him. Then he loses the loving generosity of a favorite aunt. A brutal stepfather with a flaming temper and an evil secret makes his life miserable. The one bright light in Gerald's life is his little half sister, Angel, whom he struggles to protect from her father, Jordan Sparks, who abuses her, and from their mother, whose irresponsible behavior forces Gerald to work hard to keep the family together.

As a teenager, Gerald finds success as a member of the Hazelwood Tigers basketball team, while Angel develops her talents as a dancer. Trouble still haunts them, however, and Gerald learns, painfully, that young friends can die and old enemies must be faced. In the end he must stand up to his stepfather alone in a blazing confrontation.

For lesson plans to go along with *Forged by Fire* look on the following website:

<http://sharondraper.com/lessonsdetail.asp?lesson=2>

Just Read Florida has made a list of great books for all age students to read during the holidays. To view the lists: <http://www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading.asp>.

Challenge your students to see how many books on the list they can read during the holidays!