Creating Classroom Cultures through Literacy

Keynote Address:
Debbie Miller
“Creating Classroom Cultures of Thinking and Understanding: What Matters Most?”

Debbie is author of Reading with Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades (2002) and Teaching with Intention: Defining Beliefs, Aligning Practice, Taking Action (2008). Debbie presents workshops across the country and works extensively with schools and districts on long-range planning and development of literacy initiatives.

Featured Presenters:
Nancy Anderson, Texas Woman’s University
Barbara Bleeker, Emporia State University
Betsy Kaye, Texas Woman’s University
Lotta Larson, Kansas State University

Featured Guest Author:
Carmen Agra Deedy
Carmen is the award-winning author of several children’s books, including Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach; Agatha’s Feather Bed; and The Library Dragon.

Date: March 2, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Location: Memorial Union, Emporia State University
Cost: $100 per person (includes lunch and refreshments)
$85 per person for districts sending 3 or more participants

Register online at www.emporia.edu/readingrecovery

For ALL early literacy educators!
Carmen Agra Deedy has been traveling around the world, writing and telling stories for almost 20 years. She received her most cherished review from a third-grade student named Brad, following one of her classroom storytelling visits. In a handwritten letter, Brad thanked Deedy for visiting his class and wrote, “We ‘lauf’ so hard. Casey’s retainer fell out.” Carmen draws from her love of laughter, Cuban folklore, and family to spin tales of her unique, dual heritage in heartfelt and animated performances that ring hilariously true to the ear. She is the award-winning author of several children’s books, including *Martina, the Beautiful Cockroach; Agatha’s Feather Bed;* and *The Library Dragon.*

Debbie Miller, Keynote speaker

Debbie Miller taught and learned from children in the Denver public schools for 30 years. Author of *Reading with Meaning: Teaching Comprehension in the Primary Grades,* (Stenhouse, 2002) and the video series, *Happy Reading!* and the *Joy of Conferring,* Debbie now presents workshops and works extensively with schools and districts on long-range planning and development of literacy programs.

She worked for many years with the Denver-based Public Education and Business Coalition (PEBC), a nonprofit group committed to providing ongoing support and leadership for schools in the Denver area and nationally. Debbie has also been an adjunct professor at The University of Denver and Regis University.

**Keynote Address:**
“Creating Classroom Cultures of Thinking and Understanding: What Matters Most?”

**Presentation Topic:**
“Lesson Design—Creating Lessons Based on Practices and Principles You Believe In”

Betsy Kaye

Betsy Kaye is a trainer of Reading Recovery teacher leaders at Texas Woman’s University and a faculty member in TWU’s Department of Reading. Her research interests include early intervention and systematic observation of early reading.

**Presentation Topics:**
“Individual Learners, Unique Routes to Literacy”
“Tak-ing W-ords Apar-t in Continuous Text”

Barbara Bleeker

Barbara Bleeker received her B.A. from the University of Colorado and her M.A. from Kansas State Teachers College, Emporia, KS, and began her career by teaching middle school English for several years. She teaches language arts courses at Emporia State University, and she and her husband, Gerrit, co-author a column about children’s and young adult literature for the *Topeka Capital Journal.* The Bleekers have also donated several thousand children’s and young adult books to the ESU Visser Hall Resource Center.

**Presentation Topic:**
“School and Home: Literacy Partners in the 21st Century”

Nancy Anderson

Nancy Anderson is an associate professor and university trainer for Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders in the Department of Reading at Texas Woman’s University. She received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University specializing in the relationship between language and thinking related to professional learning and children’s literacy development.

Dr. Anderson works extensively with doctoral students, teaches in TWU’s graduate and undergraduate programs, and provides professional development for teacher leaders at Reading Recovery sites across the United States. Dr. Anderson’s professional passion is working with children at risk of literacy failure, and she can often be found in schools teaching children and coaching teachers.

**Presentation Topic:**
“Helping Children Construct Meaning Across the Lesson”

Lotta Larson

Lotta Larson teaches Language Arts Methods to pre-service teachers at Kansas State University. Her research involves how to best assist teachers as they integrate technology and children’s literature into their classrooms to meet the needs of a wide range of learners.

**Presentation Topics:**
“Using Technology to Teach Reading”
“Involving Families in a Literacy Community”

Our Featured Guest Author

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