



Reading and Writing Collaboration

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Connecting Two Unique Schools



Bairdmore Elementary School

- Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- Kindergarten to Grade 6
- Suburban school with upper middle class community
- Close to the University of Manitoba
- School culture is extremely positive with tremendous parental support.

Devine Street Public School

- Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
- Kindergarten to Grade 8
- Inner city school with lower income community
- Closest school to chemical valley
- School culture beginning to change and test scores have begun to rise

Bringing The Classrooms Together



SMART Ideas Online Literature Group
Discussing Novel Chunks Using Literature Circle
Role Templates and Feedback Meetings

Blogging:
Using Digital Communication To Write
Autobiographical Post



Making Connections Reading Strategy
Using Comment Function To Authentically Connect
To Blog Text

Online Reading Group



Select the same novel to read.

- Text selected with regard for group members instructional reading level.
- Students organize their schedule for each role sheet
- Students select an unique symbol for adding their comments, feedback and questions onto the concept map.



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Using SMART Ideas Software:



- Meet online and decide how much of the novel to read for each meeting.
- Chat function of the software is used to:
 - a) provide navigation prompts through the graphic organizer
 - b) allow the teacher to facilitate the meeting and student interaction
 - c) is informal and not evaluated



Using SMART Ideas Software:



- Between meetings read story chunk
- Students then access the graphic organizer online and fill out the appropriate role sheet.
- Student completion of the role sheets are assessed and evaluated.



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Using SMART Ideas Software:



- Meet online and view each other's role sheets and give feedback using unique symbols.
- The student writer of each sheet 'hosts' the discussion and feedback of the group.
- The symbols that are added to each role sheet are assessed and evaluated.
- This is done for each story 'chunk'



Why This Online Collaboration Project:



- Students are engaged in the reading task through this digital communication tool.
- More in-depth responses are easily tracked for teacher assessment within symbols.
- Students authentically apply this strategy into a real world setting.
- Builds on students' prior knowledge of internet communication.



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Getting The Ideas Out: Blogging



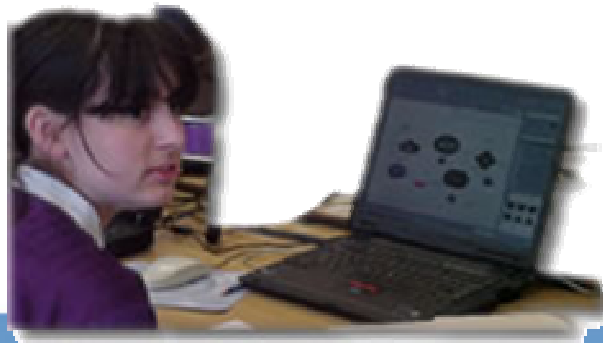
- Blog organized into categories for each type of posting.
- Students write an informal blog post about a relevant topic.
- Postings are submitted to the teacher for approval (focus on revising ideas and voice instead of editing).
- Reluctant writers take more risks and are engaged in the writing process.



Making Connections When Reading



- Other students read the posts of others and have to comment the posts of at least 5 others.
- Focus on the reading comprehension strategy, making connections.
- Comments are moderated by the teacher.
- Students authentically apply this strategy into a real world setting.
- Builds on students' prior knowledge of internet communication.





View the project online:
www.mrhazzard.com



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