

**SITES FOR SORE EYES:
NEW WEB RESOURCES FOR LITERACY TEACHERS**

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**Michael McKenna
Georgia Southern University
mmckenna@gasou.edu**

(Email me for an electronic version of this handout.)

Authors and Children's Literature

Children's Literature Activities for the Classroom. This site offers teachers the opportunity to retrieve literature by grade level. Lesson plans are provided, along with other links to be used when teaching with trade books. I did notice that when several book titles were clicked on, the link was unavailable. The following stories are some that I browsed through when checking out this useful site: *The Grouchy Ladybug*; *A River Ran Wild*; *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (this one offers printable worksheets); and *Island of the Blue Dolphins*.

<http://members.aol.com/Mgoudie/ChildrensLit.html>

Educational Publishers and Software Distributors Directory. Alphabetized links to most publishers, including information about author visits and publisher associations.

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/commerc.htm>

TeachingBooks.net. Combines many great features: multimedia components, discussion guides to more than 1,000 books, author study, links to children's literature sites.

<http://www.teachingbooks.net>

SmartWriters.com. (Launched April 1, 2002) Variety of resources for writers and educators alike: searchable book review database and author/illustrator school visits directory.

<http://www.SmartWriters.com>

Carol Hurst. This site is now sponsored by *Teaching PreK-8*. It is a collection of reviews of children's literature and ways to use children's literature in the classroom. Features literature-related activities across many subjects and themes. In addition to author studies and book reviews, the site also contains a great deal of professional information. Direct links for ordering literature.

<http://www.carolhurst.com>

Jim Trelease. Though a bit commercial, this site, by the read-aloud master, offers some unusual links (e.g., parenting, publishers, author sites, "kid-safe" sites) and other features. Worth a visit.

<http://www.trelease-on-reading.com>

Books and E-Books

Reading A-Z. Offers downloadable books for guided reading and phonics. Each book has lesson plans and worksheets and the benchmark books have running record forms.

<http://www.readinga-z.com>

Hiyah.com. Online classic stories read aloud by well-known performers while text is displayed. Contains a featured story of the week and a few archived titles.

<http://www.hiyah.com/>

Fable Library. Offers a number of engaging, downloadable fables (new ones, not the classics), mostly at beginning reading levels. Also contains a "Make Your Own Fable" feature, enabling children to create their own fables and submit them to the site.

<http://www.fablevision.com/place/library/index.html>

Learning page.com

Barahona Center for the Study of Books in Spanish for Children and Adolescents. Contains a searchable database of "more than 6,000 in print books that deserve to be read by Spanish-speaking children and adolescents (or those who wish to learn Spanish)." Headings and descriptions are bilingual. Updated weekly. Sponsored by California State University, San Marcos.

http://www.csusm.edu/csb/intro_eng.html

Miscellaneous Resources

Internet4Classrooms. A collaborative project developed by Susan Brooks and Bill Byles, this site contains a multitude of resources for educators at all grade levels. Includes online texts.

<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/lang.htm>

ABC Teach. This colorful and easy-to-browse website is one of my favorites. I recommend it to any educator or parent looking for useful and creative materials and ideas. It offers month-to-month teaching themes, a rain forest unit, printable Dolch lists, literature materials (e.g., Charlotte's Web), portfolio resources, book report forms, graphic organizers, and many, many more.

<http://www.abcteach.com>

School Express. Contains free worksheets, free units, free math online activities, free stories online, award maker, spell maker, funtime, and many other activities.

<http://www.schoolexpress.com>

Public Broadcasting System. Many kid activities related to characters they are familiar with, such as The Big Red Dog, Bert, Ernie etc. There are also many interactive writing activities. Included are links to other PBS sites.

<http://www.pbs.net>

Georgia Learning Connections. A great site for lesson plans, regular and special education information, and teaching strategies across the curriculum.

<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us>

Apple Learning Interchange. A great site for lesson plans, regular and special education information, and teaching strategies across the curriculum.

<http://www.ali.apple.com>

NEA. Home page of the National Education Association. Many links to resources and information for teachers. Try the "Readacross" link for materials, lesson plans, and more.

<http://www.nea.org>

Preschool by Stormie. Provides preschool teachers with monthly thematic activities. Stormie suggests a shape, colors, number, letters, gross motor focus, fine motor focus, nursery rhyme, water table activity, and mini-geographic/multicultural idea for each month.

<http://www.preschoolbystormie.com>

The Perpetual Preschool. Offers teachers month-by-month ideas for various activities, plus teaching tips (e.g., about behavior management, home visits, etc.), seasonal themes, "Teacher 2 Teacher" (where teachers correspond online), and learning center ideas.

<http://www.perpetualpreschool.com>

California Reading and Language Arts Resources. Although focused on the needs of California teachers, this site contains many useful links of interest to all literacy educators, including research, resources, standards, and associations.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/reading.html>

Enchanted Learning. Offers background information and free printable materials and pictures on a variety of common topics (e.g., butterflies, dinosaurs, states, Antarctica, rainforests).

<http://www.EnchantedLearning.com/Home.html>

Early Reading-Technology Project. Offers free downloadable leveled e-books (with audio) at four levels. Sponsored by the California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP).
<http://www.ertp.santacruz.k12.ca.us/stories/download.htm>

Struggling Readers

AVKO Dyslexia Research Foundation. Offers resources and commercial products. Somewhat out of the mainstream. A related site is <http://www.spelling.org>.
<http://www.avko.org>

Learning Disabilities On-line. A great site for lesson plans, regular and special education information, and teaching strategies across the curriculum.
<http://www.ldonline.com>

Reading Processes and Strategies

SEDL. Southwest Educational Development Laboratory's site, organized by area of reading (e.g., decoding, comprehension, letter knowledge, etc.). Contains a great deal of background on each area.
<http://www.sedl.org/reading/framework/>

Reading/Literacy Resources for Present and Future Teachers. This marvelous site, constructed by David Lund at the Southern Utah University, offers useful links to nearly every dimension of literacy (e.g., fluency, content literacy, diversity, comprehension, assessment). Contains links to articles, printable materials, and key sites. Frequently updated.
<http://www.suu.edu/faculty/lundd/readingsite/readingresources/>

ReadingQuest. Raymond Jones' site containing explanations of key strategies for teaching vocabulary and comprehension. The strategies are universal and well validated but the examples here have a social studies context. Included are semantic feature analysis, graphic organizers, reciprocal teaching questioning the author, question-answer relationships (QARs), KWL, comparison-contrast charts, story maps, and many more.
<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/readquest/>

The Literacy Web. Don Leu's excellent site at Uconn; great links to many resources in all major areas of literacy. In Don's words, "The Literacy Web is an extensive collection of the very best resources we have found on the Internet to support teachers with limited time. Julie [Coiro] has organized The Literacy Web so that you may quickly explore these resources by your grade level or by a specific topic area to find the resources you need."
<http://www.literacy.uconn.edu>

Words

WordPlays. Interactive word games of all kinds and at many levels, such as Boggler, Crossword Challenge, Words In Word, Jumble, Anagram, Word Morph and Crossword Helper. Contains online dictionary. Created and maintained by one dedicated individual, Richard DeSimine.
<http://www.wordplays.com/>

RhymeZone. A rhyming dictionary online and a whole lot more. Type in a word and receive virtually very rhyming word in English. Very extensive listings, however, including arcane words. Subdivides results by number of syllables. Also provides (on request) definitions, synonyms, antonyms. It will even locate the word in Shakespeare and other sources.
<http://rhyme.lycos.com/>

Readability Sites. Just in case you lost your print copies, two readability formulas are online: the Fry and the SMOG – directions, tables, graphs, everything you need. Just to keep such formulas in proper perspective, however, remember that SMOG stands for "Some Measure of Gobbledygook"!
<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/fry/fry.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ads/smog.htm>

Case Studies

Literacy Cases On-Line. This site, sponsored by the College Reading Association and still under construction, will offer online cases of exemplary classroom practice, told in the form vignettes. Should be ideal for professional development.
<http://literacy.okstate.edu>

Reading Case Studies. This site, which will be under continuous development over the next several years, will offer longitudinal assessment data on real children, beginning in late kindergarten and including audio of oral reading samples. Children will be tracked over time so that long-term developmental trends can be studied by preservice and inservice teachers.
<http://www2.gasou.edu/facstaff/mmckenna>

Interactive Sites for kids

Wacky Web Tales. Children can write their own funny tales by picking a title and filling in the blanks with nouns and verbs. (Very similar to Mad-Libs.) The tales are geared for grade 3+.
<http://www.eduplace.com/tales>

Fun Brain. Full of games for children of all ages and tends to be especially fun for school-age children. There are also teacher and parent resources available on this site.
<http://www.funbrain.com>

Giggle Poetry. This website encompasses a whole realm of poetry and activities to do with poetry. The website was created by Bruce Lansky, and he gives students opportunities to rate poems, submit poems, ask a poet questions, read interviews, and learn how to write poetry. The site also includes links to poetryteachers.com and fictionteachers.com.
<http://www.gigglepoetry.com>

Discovery School. For parents, students and teachers. Support for quizzes, worksheets, puzzlemaker, and lesson plans.
<http://www.discoveryschool.com>

KidsReads.com. An excellent site for hands-on use by kids. It is easy to navigate and there is little advertising. This site features: video interviews with authors, sneak previews of new books, opportunities to write to authors, a question of the week, student responses to questions about literature, online trivia quizzes about books, word scrambles with book ties, a bookshelf featuring entire books online, information about many authors, and links to other literature sites.
<http://www.kidsreads.com>

The Write Site. This Ohio site offers tips to middle schoolers on writing well. It has a journalistic focus and provides plenty of background on newspaper publishing and related topics.
<http://www.writesite.org>

Search Engines

Google Images. A relatively new feature of this excellent search engine is the "Images" option. By entering your request and then clicking on the Images link, you retrieve only pictures. Excellent tool for struggling readers with imaging difficulties or others who find the Internet's labyrinth of hypertext a little daunting.
<http://www.google.com>

Metasearch Engines. Ever think your search engine may have missed a few sites? You're right. Google, for instance, captures only 42% of indexable web pages. Try one of the new super engines that combine regular search engines and give you a single result.
<http://www.ixquick.com>
<http://www.vivisimo.com>
<http://www.profusion.com>

A Good Site That Just Didn't Fit Anywhere Else

Hoax Busters. A good source of information regarding Internet hoaxes is the U.S. government's Hoaxbusters site, housed at the Department of Energy.
<http://HoaxBusters.ciac.org/>