

CT Reading Institute Newsletter

June 2010



Hello, it's me again, Adult "Ed"! Here are some ideas to think about while you enjoy your summer vacation.

Now that end of the year festivities are over, grades and testing are completed and the warm weather has settled in, it's time to relax and recharge our batteries. This issue of the newsletter is devoted not to our students, but to YOU, our teachers. So between picking blueberries and going to the beach, take some time to investigate some of the websites that you just never got to during the year. Print one of the articles and take it with you to read while relaxing poolside. Sign up for a webinar or take some time to create some interesting activities for your students for next year. And enjoy the summer!

- Aileen Halloran
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What is Verizon Thinkfinity?

Thinkfinity, the Verizon Foundation's free, website, contains thousands of educational resources, including standards-based, grade-specific, K-12 lesson plans, student interactive tools and reference materials. Thinkfinity also offers a free, professional-development program for teachers and trainers and is a PD Affiliate of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. Sign up for free webinars or their monthly newsletter.

Thinkfinity.org

Are reading & writing connected?

While writing and reading skills are closely connected, writing is often overlooked as a tool for improving reading skills and content learning, according to *Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading*, a new report from Carnegie Corporation of New York published by the Alliance for Excellent Education. The report provides practitioners with research-supported information about how writing improves reading while making the case for researchers and policymakers to place greater emphasis on writing instruction as an integral part of school curriculum.

Writing to Read: Evidence for How Writing Can Improve Reading (PDF)
http://carnegie.org/fileadmin/Media/Publications/WritingToRead_01.pdf

Making a Difference

Carol Ann Tomlinson, a University of Virginia education professor, talks about the need for Differentiated Instruction at a time when our students are becoming more academically diverse. Her work has given many educators both practical and philosophical frameworks for modifying instruction to meet the individual needs of all students.

<http://www.edweek.org/tsb/articles/2008/09/10/01tomlinson.h02.html>



**"Summertime and the livin'
is easy...fish are jumpin'
and the cotton is high"**

George Gershwin

Websites

National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) - a federal agency providing leadership on literacy issues, including the improvement of reading instruction for children, youth, and adults.

www.nifl.gov

Literacy Connections - provides a wealth of information on reading, teaching and tutoring techniques, and adult literacy <http://www.literacyconnections.com>

Center for Adult English Language Acquisition (CAELA) - promotes English Language learning and academic achievement of adults learning English www.cal.org

How about a couple websites to keep your brain active?

Free rice – for each right answer you get on a variety of subjects 10 grains of rice will be donated through the World Food Program. www.freerice.com

Braingle - tons of brain teasers, puzzles, quizzes and free online games. Here's a sample. <http://www.braingle.com>

Take the given words, and by moving a single letter from one word to the other, make a pair of synonyms, or near synonyms. For example, given: Boast - Hip, move the 's' from 'Boast' to 'Hip' creating two synonyms: Boat - Ship.

1. Open - Cop
2. Cave - Curt
3. Cares - Pest
4. Salve - Savage
5. Whiled - Spurn

Ideas for Student Activities

In many of the reading workshops we discussed ideas for reading activities for students. Take some time to make them now and you will have lessons ready to go in the fall.

Prefix/suffix cards- using index cards put a root word on one card and several prefixes and suffixes that could combine with that root to form words. Students can work in pairs to see how many words they

can create. Here is a site that has root words, prefixes and suffixes.

<http://www.betterendings.org/homeschool/Words/Root%20Words.htm>

Dolch Kit – a variety of activities to create for practicing words from the Dolch list of sight words.

www.theschoolbell.com/Links/Dolch/Directions/rollkeep.html

CT Reading Institute Update

Using Evidence-based Reading Research and the STAR model, (go to www.startoolkit.org for more information), the CT Reading Institute offers a series of six workshops focusing on reading strategies. Whether you teach GED, ABE, math or social studies, you **are** teaching reading and can use these strategies. The series of six workshops will be offered over the fall and spring. To see the schedule and register go to:

<http://www.crec.org/cetes/atdn>

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower is broken.”

James Dent

