



*Steeped in History,
Focused on the Future*

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Read, Read, Read!

November 2011

Integrating Literacy at Daniel Morgan Technology Center

The Advanced Applied Electronics class at Daniel Morgan began working with their new VEX robotics kits this semester. This highly configurable platform not only allows students to learn how to program and control the machine; but also allows for flexibility in choosing different motors and gearing options to solve simulated engineering problems. This new system is being integrated into the existing curriculum to further increase student engagement and emphasize critical thinking skills.

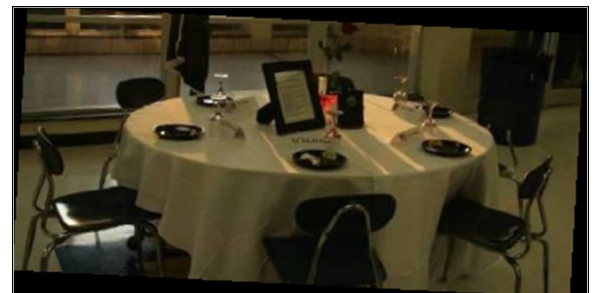


The Building Construction students at DMTC prepare for the initial phase of residential construction. Their instructor, Mr. Waters, is giving “hands-on” instruction to the students as they begin building a three-bedroom house on campus. During the program, students will not only learn the use of hand and power tools, but they will also learn to read blueprints as they progress through each phase of the construction of the house.

Veterans Day Video

Based on the book, America’s White Table by Margot Raven, The Air Force Junior ROTC unit, at Broome High School, displayed the Missing Man Table in the school cafeteria. Students created a video that explained the significance of each of the elements on the table. The video was presented on the morning news.

Click to view the video at: [http://
broome.spartanburg3.org/www/
spartanburg3_broome/site/hosting/
missingman.wmv](http://broome.spartanburg3.org/www/spartanburg3_broome/site/hosting/missingman.wmv)



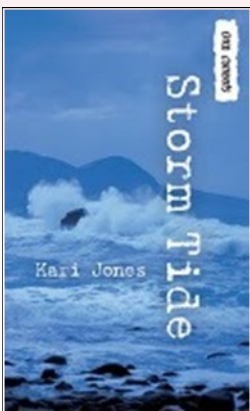
Reading at Pacolet Elementary School

"You're the same today as you'll be in five years except for the people you meet and the books you read."



"Visualize this thing that you want, see it, feel it, believe in it. Make your mental blue print, and begin to build."

Robert Collier



First grade students at Pacolet Elementary School in Patsy Brown's LEAP class recently read a book called *Super Dog* by Michelle Dufresne. The book is about two little dogs, Jack and Daisy. Jack has a red cape and thinks he is Super Dog. Daisy wants to wear Jack's cape but Jack will not let her. Mrs. Brown's students felt so sorry for Daisy that they made a pink cape and sent it to the author requesting that Mrs. Dufresne write a book where Daisy gets to be Super Girl and wear the cape they made. Mrs. Dufresne wrote the children back and told them Daisy was thrilled with the cape and that Daisy has insisted that Mrs. Dufresne write a book about her. After Mrs. Dufresne completes the book, she is going to put it on the Pioneer Valley website for all

children throughout the country to download. Thank you, Michelle Dufresne, we can't wait to read your new book!



Comprehension Strategy—Visualizing

Definition of Visualizing **Authors use words to help you see what is happening in the writing. When you visualize, you create a picture in your mind. The writing comes to life for you.**

Open ended statements to use to help set the mood for visualizing might include: "Even though it isn't in the

picture, I can see the...", "I can picture the ..."; "I can imagine what it is like to," "I think that ... must have..."

Visualizing is often accomplished more readily with fiction than in expository text. Nonfiction expository text relies on the concepts: size, length, time lines, weight, distance and diagrams.

Comparison of some of these are good places to start with drawings or statements.

During November, patriotic books that tell words of the ***The Star-Spangled Banner, American the Beautiful*** and others will provide appropriate material for the skill of visualization.

Young Adult Book Pick: Storm Tide by Kari Jones

Left alone for the first time on the island he calls home, Simon is looking forward to a day of personal indulgence.

His sister Ellen only wants to make sure they get their chores done. Their parents are busy trying to convince the government not to close the lighthouse that the family

operates, and it's up to the kids to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Neither Simon nor Ellen are prepared for the mysterious and potentially dangerous visitor who brings with him an unexpected storm and a riddle that may lead to treasure—treasure that could

help them save the lighthouse.

Simon and Ellen have to work together to solve the riddle before the stranger—or the weather—destroys their chances.

Web Lesson Sites for Veterans Day

Site	Description	Web Address
National Achieves Experience	Lesson and activities on the Constitution	http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/charters.html
The Constitution for Kids	Provides facts about the Constitution for students	http://www.usconstitution.net/constkidsK.html
Vicki Blackwell's Best	A teacher has reviewed some lessons and provides what she considers the best	http://www.vickiblackwell.com/constitutionday/index.htm
The Teachers' Corner	Units, worksheets and coloring pages for Patriotism Week	http://www.theteacherscorner.net/seasonal/veterans-day/index.htm

Professional Reading Pick - Inside Guide to Reading-Writing Classroom

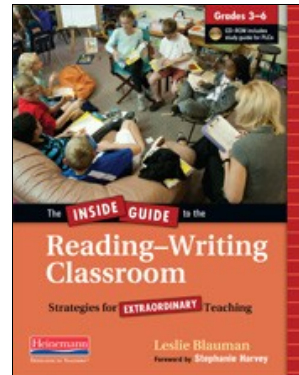
Leslie Blauman shares tried-and-true teaching practices, lessons, and classroom management ideas that can help every student achieve the success that her kids do. In *The Inside Guide to the Reading and Writing Classroom* you'll find:

- dozens of foundational model lessons with features that share the tips

and techniques to help adapt the lessons for your own classroom

- frameworks that show what it looks like to combine daily *reading* and *writing* practices in a workshop
- overviews of how to implement the gradual release model into classroom instruction
- a CD with lists of mentor

texts, graphic organizers, and templates of the Book Lover's Book—



Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others.

— Robert Lewis



Super Web Sites

<http://www.photoshow.com>
Turn your photos into a musical instrument in just minutes.

<http://earthcamforkids.com/>
Live webcams for kids: webcams that are kid friendly, fun, and educational. There are animal cams, people cams, weather cams and much more! Enjoy!

<http://artpad.art.com/artpad/painter/painter.swf> Create bookcovers – illustrate scientific concepts...you are only limited by your imagination!

<http://www.dogonews.com/>
Current events for young minds.

<http://freerice.com> This favorite site just got better!

You'll remember that previously, your students tried to correctly identify vocabulary in order to donate free rice to feed the hungry through the World Food Program. Now you can choose by subject, including Math, Chemistry, and more! What a great way to practice multiplication tables and teach your students to help others at the same time!

20 Sites to Improve Your Child's Literacy

[National Children's Literacy Website](http://www.child2000.org/lit-tips.htm) –<http://www.child2000.org/lit-tips.htm> This non-profit organization is dedicated to improving and promoting children's literacy in child care and home settings. Helpful materials on the National Children's Literacy Website include general literacy tips, advice on teaching children to read, educational activities, story-time tips, and links to additional resources.

[Reading Comprehension](http://www.literacy.uconn.edu/compre.htm) –<http://www.literacy.uconn.edu/compre.htm> The University of Connecticut provides a wide range of literacy resources for children and adolescents. Resources include vocabulary instruction, text comprehension instruction, teaching strategies, and a list of websites offering comprehension practice.

[Literacy Zone](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy/index.htm) –<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy/index.htm> Created by Woodlands Junior School in the UK, Literacy Zone offers online literacy games and activities to help children improve spelling, grammar, punctuation, and writing skills.

[StoryPlace](http://www.storyplace.org/) –<http://www.storyplace.org/> StoryPlace is a digital library created specifically for children. Library materials include free online books, online activities, take-home activities, and reading lists for preschool and elementary students.

[International Children's Digital Library](http://en.childrenslibrary.org/) –<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/> This online library hosts nearly 5,000 high-quality digital books in more than 50 different languages. Books contain both text and illustrations.

[Storynory](http://storynory.com/) –<http://storynory.com/> This site publishes a new audio story each week. Storynory offers both classic stories and original tales that have been adapted from stories around the world.

[Kiddie Records](http://www.kiddierecords.com/) –<http://www.kiddierecords.com/> Kiddie Records publishes recordings of children's records that were made between the mid forties through the early fifties. Recordings include classic stories like *Horton Hatches the Egg* and *Casey at the Bat*. All of the recordings can be downloaded or played for free online.

[DogEared](http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogearred/) –<http://kidsblogs.nationalgeographic.com/dogearred/> Dog Eared is a National Geographic book blog written by kids for kids. The blog offers reviews, book recommendations, and a book of the month feature.

[RIF Reading Planet](http://www.rif.org/kids/readingplanet.htm) –<http://www.rif.org/kids/readingplanet.htm> Operated by the nation's oldest and largest nonprofit children's literacy organization, the RIF Reading Planet provides book reviews and recommendations, an author showcase, reading activities, teaching strategies, and much more.

[Grammar Girl](http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/) –<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/> Grammar Girl Mignon Fogarty provides a free podcast that covers common grammar mistakes and issues. Each podcast episode lasts only a few minutes and provides easy-to-understand grammar advice and tips.

[The Story Kitchen](http://www.brucevanpatter.com/storykitchen.html) –<http://www.brucevanpatter.com/storykitchen.html> Created by Bruce Van Patter, The Story Kitchen offers dozens of story starters to help inspire young writers. Each story beginning consists of a few paragraphs with a note at the end that encourages site visitors to finish the story.

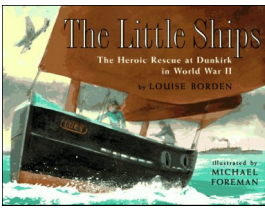
[Starfall](http://www.starfall.com/) –<http://www.starfall.com/> Starfall relies on phonics to help children learn how to read. The site offers movies, interactive games, and engaging activities for readers in pre-k to second grade.

[Writing with Writers](http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/index.htm) –<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/index.htm> Writing with Writers is a scholastic project that allows kids to work with authors and illustrators in special workshops designed to improve writing and literacy skills. The project also provides featured writing activities and step-by-step writing guides.

[Flashcard Maker](http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/flashcards.htm) –<http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/flashcards.htm> Scholastic's Homework Hub Flashcard Maker is a good tool for children who need to learn sight words. They can test themselves online or print the flashcards to practice off the computer.

Veterans Day Books

For Young Children

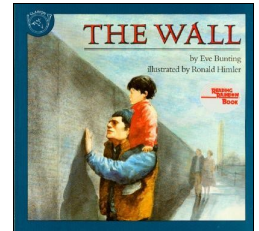


[The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk in World War II](#) (ages 7-10) by Louise Borden

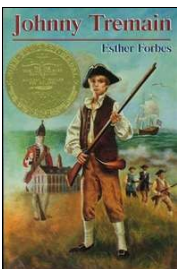
In this delightful picture book, Borden describes one of the most dramatic endeavors of World War II through the eyes of a child. A young English girl sails with her father when he joins the daring effort. She describes the risks along the way, as well as the awe-inspiring spectacle of more than 300,000 troops making their way back to safety aboard small, private vessels.

[The Wall](#) (ages 4-8) By Eve Bunting

A father and his young son visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to find the name of the grandfather the boy never met. In this brief, richly-illustrated story, Bunting captures the significance of the Memorial in child-like terms. Written for the youngest audiences, this work is a must read for children and adults alike.



For Older Children, Tweens, and Young Teens

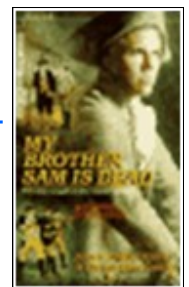


[Johnny Tremain](#) (ages 9-14) by Esther Forbes

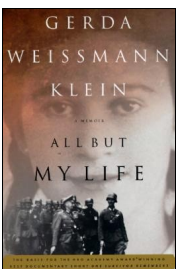
Forbes' award-winning tale of a young silversmith's apprentice thrust into the middle of the Revolutionary War has proven a favorite for more than fifty years. The novel touches on the horrors of battle, and some scenes might be disturbing to young readers. For older readers, however, the novel provides an excellent glimpse into life along the battle lines. Differing from the novel in points, but also worthwhile is [the classic Disney movie based on the book](#).

[My Brother Sam Is Dead](#) (ages 9-14) by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

In this award-winning novel, young Tim is caught between his father's Tory sympathies and his brother's allegiance to the Patriot cause. Young readers see the human impact of the Revolutionary War through the eyes of a character their own age, as Tim's father perishes aboard a British prison ship and his brother is killed in battle.



For Older Teens and Adults

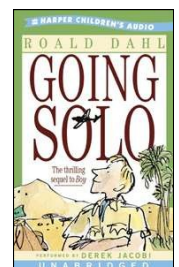


[All But My Life](#) (ages 14 and up) by Gerda Weissmann Klein

A young lady when World War II ripped through her homeland, this Jewish author recalls her enslavement by the Nazis and ultimate liberation by American soldiers. Originally written for adult audiences, this work has gained a place in countless school reading programs. The non-fictional account contains some disturbing passages that wouldn't be suitable for young audiences, however.

[Going Solo](#) (ages 12 and up) Roald Dahl

Turning from his typical tales to a more serious topic, best-loved children's author Roald Dahl writes of his own experiences as a pilot during World War II in this book geared toward young adult readers.



Thanksgiving Books

AGES 4-8

1, 2, 3, Thanksgiving! by W. Nikola-Lisa, illustrated by Robin Kramer - This counting book leads children through Papa's one fat turkey, Mama's two pumpkin pies, and so on as the family sits down to a Thanksgiving feast.

Albert's Thanksgiving by Leslie Tryon - After helping the children of Pleasant Valley plant a garden, Albert, the hard-working school handy-duck, has great difficulty in harvesting the vegetables before the Thanksgiving feast, because everyone has something else for him to do.

Arthur's Thanksgiving by Marc Brown Arthur - finds his role as director of the Thanksgiving play a difficult one, especially since no one will agree to play the turkey.

Cranberry Thanksgiving by Wende Devlin, Harry Devlin - Maggie and her grandmother each invite a guest to their Thanksgiving feast, featuring Grandmother's own cranberry bread, made from a secret recipe.

Gracias, the Thanksgiving Turkey by Joy Cowley, illustrated by Joe Cepeda - Miguel's father gets him a turkey to fatten up for Thanksgiving, and soon the boy and bird are firmly attached. But what will become of his friend on the day of reckoning?

How Many Days to America? : A Thanksgiving Story by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Beth Peck - After the police come, the family is forced to flee their Caribbean island and set sail for America in a small fishing boat. Other refugees crowd the boat and the voyage is a long one, but when the family finally arrives they discover it's a special day in more ways than one.

Molly's Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen, illustrated by Daniel M. Duffy - Russian emigre Molly is embarrassed by her mother's attempts to help with her Thanksgiving project. She makes a pilgrim doll--but dresses it in Russian clothing. Soon, however, Molly learns that it takes all kinds of "pilgrims" to make a Thanksgiving.

Pilgrim's First Thanksgiving by Ann McGovern - Somewhat longer picture book that explains voyage of the Pilgrims, their becoming friends with Squanto, and the first feast.

AGES 9-12

1621 A New Look at Thanksgiving by Catherine O'Neill Grace, Margaret M. Bruchac with Plimoth Plantation - This book uses maps, recipes and photographs of historical reenactments to debunk the myths of Thanksgiving. It presents new, factual information in a clear, well-written manner.

The First Thanksgiving by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Thomas Locker - The story of the Pilgrims is vividly retold in simple language for beginning readers

AGES 12 AND BEYOND

Thanksgiving: The Pilgrims' First Year in America by Glenn Cheney *Thanksgiving* is not a book about a holiday. It's about something that a few dozen survivors did after a year of suffering, death, struggle, and courage. They bowed their heads to give thanks. The Pilgrims journey began as a joint venture of business and religion, but soon it became a matter of survival.

The Mayflower and Her Passengers by Caleb Johnson. - The book begins with original, never before published information about the *Mayflower* ship itself, and its history before and after she became the famous vessel that brought the Pilgrims to America. The remainder of the book consist of short biographies of each passenger or family group that came on the *Mayflower*—the first attempt to create individual biographies for each of the passengers or family groups.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 National Author's Day All Saint's Day U.S. Weather Service Established, 1870 Electric Light Bulb Patented	2 Daniel Boone Cookie Monster's Birthday International Space Station Opened, 2000 National Deviled Egg Day	3 National Sandwich Day	4 Gail Haley First Wagon Train Reached California National Candy Day King Tut's Tomb Discovered, 1922	5 Guy Fawkes Day
6 Eid al-Adha, Muslim Holiday (7th in North America) Daylight Savings Time Ends James Naismith Inventor of Basketball, 1861	7 Hug-a-Bear Day Scientist Marie Curie born in 1867	8 Young Reader's Day X-Ray Day X-Ray was discovered on this day in 1895	9 Holocaust Began in 1938	10 Sesame Street Debuted in 1969	11 Remembrance Day In Canada Veteran's Day	12 Marjorie W. Sharmat Women's Rights Leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in 1815
13 Nathaniel Benchley Mom's and Dad's Day The Vietnam Veterans Memorial dedicated in 1982 American Education Week	14 William Steig Miska Miles Born 1899 National Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day	15 Daniel Pinkwater David McCord Georgia O'Keefe, 1887 America Recycles Day	16 Jean Fritz Born 1915 Fall of the Inca Empire, 1533 Button Day	17 Homemade Bread Day Lewis & Clark Reached the Pacific in 1805 Take A Hike Day		19 Sweetest Day Gettysburg Address Delivered in 1863 by President Lincoln Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 1917
20 Mother-in-Law's Day Mexican Revolution Day Traffic Light Patented, 1923	21 Leo Politi Mayflower Compact Signed, 1620 World Hello Day	22 Stop the Violence Day 35th President, John F. Kennedy Assassinated, 1963	23 National Cashew Day	24 Thanksgiving Day Charles Darwin publishes 'The Origin of Species' in 1859 Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated by Jack Ruby in 1963	25 Marc Brown Andrew Carnegie, 1846 Crescent Dragonwagon	26 Charles Schulz National Cake Day
27 Pins and Needles Day Astronomer Anders Celsius, 1701	28 Tomi Ungerer Magellan reached the Pacific, 1521	29 Madeline L'Engle, 1918 King Tut's Tomb Opened	30 Margot Zemach Mark Twain, 1835			