

64TH CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE STUDENT SUCCESS

**AAC/AT and Academics:
Strategies, Stories and Successes**

Session #74

Sue Porr, MS, MEd, OTR/L
Debbie Reinhartsen, PhD, CCC-SLP
Rebecca Pretzel, PhD, Psychologist
Angelia Waitt, MS, CF-SLP

Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities, UNC-CH

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
State Office of Education | Department of Public Instruction

NOVEMBER 3-5, 2014

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Literacy is for Everyone: Simple Adaptations Make this Possible

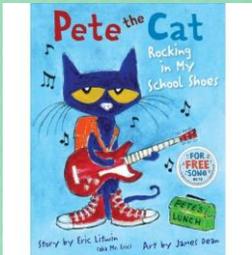


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Pre-K/Early Elementary

Pete the Cat

The story line: Pete the Cat is back—and this time he's rocking in his school shoes. Pete discovers the library, the lunchroom, the playground, and lots of other cool places at school. And no matter where he goes, Pete never stops moving and grooving and singing his song . . . because it's all good.



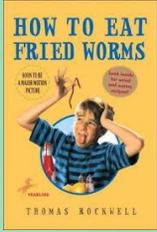
First grade standards: Literature (L), informational (I), writing/communication (W/C)

- **Standard**
 - Retell the story (L)
 - Identify main topic and details (I)
 - State an opinion and reason (W/C)
- **Strategies**
 - Puppets, videos, storybags
 - Visual supports
 - Aided language board
 - Voice output device
 - SmartBoard

Middle/Upper Elementary

How to Eat Fried Worms

*The story line: In *How to Eat Fried Worms* by Thomas Rockwell, Billy makes a bet with his friends to eat 15 worms in 15 days. The boys plan one scheme after another to keep Billy from eating the worms, so that he loses the bet.



Fourth grade standards: Literature (L), informational (I), writing/communication (W/C)

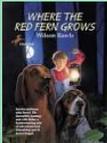
- **Standard**
 - Describe in depth the character, setting, event; give details from the text (L)
 - Summarize the text (I)
 - With help from adults, publish/produce text (W/C)
- **Strategies**
 - Scholastic Book Wizard search
 - Aided language boards about characters/ events
 - PowerPoint books
 - Apps/online resources for book production
 - Foldable books

The Middle School Mix

- Often see more separation among students based on academic skills
- AT/AAC as supports to level the playing field and provide a “universal design for learners”
- The collaboration challenge to pull this off becomes greater

Book choice: Where the Red Fern Grows

(professional input from Lee County Schools)
grade level = 6.0, interest level- grades 6 and up



- The story line: A young boy and his 2 dogs become the finest coon hunting team in the area. A tragedy causes the death of one dog and the subsequent death of the other. Themes include perseverance, grief, love and adventure.

Already "out there" supports:

- The Movie – made in 2003 rated PG – 86 minutes
- Wikipedia for synopsis
- Sparknotes- for summaries and chapter information
- Scholastic – Discussion guides <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/discussion-guide>

7th Grade: Reading – Literature

- **Standard**
Read grade level literature with scaffolding
- **Strategies**
 - View the movie
 - Find an abridged edition
 - Consider an auditory option such as Audacity or an E-book
 - Find related info in Tarheel Reader

7th grade: Reading – Informational

- **Standard**
Analyze how 2+ authors write about the same topic - what's the same and what's different
- **Strategies**
 - Use peer-mediated learning
 - Bring in a nonfiction book on hunting dogs, country life
 - Tell how movie and book are different
 - Smartboard activities with same and different
 - Venn diagram-hula hoops

7th grade: Writing/Communication

- **Standard**
Develop a topic with facts, definitions, examples, and other information
- **Strategies**
 - Low tech AT supports (e.g., Forte -- add spelling, word bank, use word prediction)
 - Use Writers' Workshop techniques as peer/group structure - outline steps and assign tasks

High School: Reading/Literature

- **Standard**
Analyze how the author transforms information from source material into his or her specific work
- **Strategies**
 - View the movie
 - Find an abridged edition
 - Talk about the author's skills, knowledge and expertise
 - Find examples of these topics in the book- chart items/topics and source – examples could be pictures, descriptions, definitions

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High School: Reading – Informational

- **Standard**
Determine the meanings of words and phrases as they are used in the text (technical, figurative)
- **Strategies**
 - View the movie
 - Find an abridged edition
 - Variations on a theme
 - AP: locate challenging vocabulary in the text and list definitions for words – to be used as support by gen ed class
 - Gen ed class: Use comic strip software
 - OCS class – make PPT presentation of 10 vocabulary words provided in above

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High School: Writing/Communication

- **Standard**
Write an informative/explanatory text to convey an idea
- **Strategies**
 - Debate the topic: *The movie or the book- which is better?* use of team collaboration, AAC devices, visual symbols for voting - summarize debate outcome
 - Generate a "talking map" of the locations/settings in the book
 - Poster session on topics in the book –e.g., red tide, WHO, treasure hunters –the rules, iron clad ships
 - Biographical information on the author – could use template or grid for structuring information
 - Timeline of settings in the book and summary of points on timeline - (voice to text)
