

Engaging Students Using Young Adult Literature Blogs and Interconnected Student Blogs

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<http://www.psms280.com/>

Engaging Students with Blogs: Focus & Target

Focus/Promising Practice:

- ▶ Utilize interactive blogs to discuss current Young Adult Literature and solicit critical responses from students
- ▶ By addressing Digital Citizenship topics using blogs; students write persuasively, and classmates respond critically.

Target: All 6-8th grade students (accessible for ELLs and Students with Disabilities).

Partnership Alignment:

- Student blog incorporates aspects of Common Sense Media's Digital Citizenship curriculum
- AUSSIE ITC provided digital training in initial set up of Google sites
- School-based team maintains blogs, promoting sustainability
- MOUSE Squad and/or CUNY Intern could support student blogs, assisting in creation of student logins and offering technical support as needed.

Overview and Rationale for Student Blogs

- Ms. McGill's Young Adult Literature blog (<http://blahblahblah280.blogspot.com/>) was created as a way to keep current with Young Adult literature and continually expand the school library collection.
- “Respect for All” blog (<http://rfa280.blogspot.com>) was created to extend the monthly RFA theme and school culture beyond the school day



Ms. McGill's Young Adult Literature Blog

- Thoughtful questions are posed to students
- Students critically comment and engage in meaningful interaction
- Teachers can easily monitor student responses and offer prompt feedback → transition to “paperless” environment

Thursday, November 15, 2012

What is EVERYONE reading?

The Middle School library has been moved down to the main library. There is a great collection of Young Adult (YA) books so ask your teacher if you can go check it out.

Has anyone read a good book recently? Any recommendations? If you read *The Giver* or *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry you should try her new book, *Son*. I bought it and plan to read it, but haven't started it yet!

Posted by Ms. McGill at 11/15/2012

2 comments:

2 comments:

Thahia A. November 29, 2012 6:14 PM
Book name: My Sisters Keeper
Author: Jodi Picoult
Summary: This book is about a rotating story from all of the characters points of view. I'll just tell you about the main character Anna's point of view. Well basically Anna thinks that the only reason that she born was to save her older sister Kate who is suffering from leukemia. Anna is thirteen and in the past two years, she has had over ten surgeries and all of these surgeries were donations to her sister Kate. If Kate needed more bone marrow Anna would be the answer, if Kate needed more white blood cells, and if Kate needed more organs, Anna would be the donor. Now, Anna wants to sew her parents for using Anna as a survival kit for Kate. And I'm not going to tell you how the book ends. It's just so surprising to see how it ends. Better read it to find out!!!

Review: this is a very good book. It is a sad story and catches your heart instantly! Reading this book made me get a little more feelings for all of my sisters and it teaches an important lesson as well!

***** YOU CAN FIND THIS BOOK IN ROOM 301*****

[Reply](#)

Julieth carias November 30, 2012 12:17 AM
How To Save A Life
This book is actually a really touching book. It's about a girl called Jill, who's father just died. She's feeling alright but her mom is going a bit 'crazy'. Her mom planned on adopting a baby at 50 years old!! Jill tries to knock some sense into her mom but nothings working!!!

I recommend this book to anyone who likes 'dramatic' books. This book definetly makes you cry at the end, but maybe its happy tears ;) who knows? Everyone should read this book though, in all seriousness.

[Reply](#)

Enter your comment...

Comment as:

Blogs address the Common Core Standards

CCR.6-12.11:

Respond to literature by employing knowledge of literary language, textual features, and forms to read and comprehend, reflect upon, and interpret literary texts from a variety of genres and a wide spectrum of American and world cultures.

RL.6-8.11:

Recognize, interpret, and make connections in narratives, poetry, and drama, ethically and artistically to other texts, ideas, cultural perspectives, eras, personal events, and situations.

- a. Self-select text based on personal preferences.
- b. Use established criteria to classify, select, and evaluate texts to make informed judgments about the quality of the pieces.

Blogs address the Common Core Standards

W.6-8.1:

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

W.6-8.6:

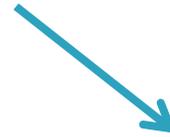
Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others

SL.6-8.1c:

Pose questions that elicit elaboration and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas that bring the discussion back on topic as needed; acknowledge new information expressed by others

Student-created “Respect for All” Blog:

- <http://rfa280.blogspot.com/>
- Created and maintained by two 8th grade students
- Post is based upon schoolwide “RFA” theme for the month
- Student mentors may travel to 5th grade classes in order to elicit engage students in critical discussions.
- Students then critically comment on the blog



Student-created “Respect for All” Blog:

- Blog helps students become more comfortable with online resources
- Online collaboration skills and responsible online behavior contribute to College and Career Readiness
- These topics are covered by Common Sense Media’s Digital Literacy & Citizenship curriculum



School Community Embraces “Respect for All” in Murals and Art Projects



Mural painted by students, 2011-2012



Sketch for a new mural,
based on RFA blog

RFA-themed art projects

