

# THE LEARNING CONSERVATORY

## Mrs. Bunyi's Class



It's probably on the Web

## 5th Grade Writing Assessment

- ~ Weekly Homework Planner
  - ~ Homework
  - ~ Class Calendar
- ~ Missing Assignments (Snapgrade)
- ~ Daily Schedule
- ~ Newsletters
- ~ Spelling Lists (Spelling City link)
  - ~ Internet Links
  - ~ TCAP practice probes (Congratulations, Drew, for being the first to log on!)

I was able to see one of my favorite writing mentors, Katie Wood Ray, in person a few years ago. I really loved/love her approach towards writing, specifically looking at other pieces of writing as a route to improve our own. One of the questions asked by a teacher in the audience was about writing assessments. "What do we do to prepare our kids?"

Her response was that we have two pillars that will help our students the most.

- 1) We provide daily time for writing. Preferably, the same amount of time that will be tested so that it is just another day of writing.
- 2) We provide a literacy rich environment that allows students to read and discuss author's craft (what is the author doing, why are they doing it, can I try it in my own writing).

Yes, it is totally unnatural to start and finish a piece of writing in one sitting. Should we practice doing this frequently then? Not according to Katie Wood Ray. She urged teachers not to become writing prompt machines in our quest to prepare our students to score well on the test.

With that being said, I have recently given a writing prompt and will be providing those scores and feedback to you shortly. I plan on putting this in the schedule every other week, giving us plenty of practice and an edge of the two pillars stated by Katie Wood Ray. We will also look at Ruth Culham's 6+ Writing Traits, which isolates the traits of good writing. I actually presented with her at the International Reading Association in Chicago last year. With 6 being the highest, DSRR earned 5 last year. We can do even better this year; I am confident!

Meanwhile, if you are interested, all the previous prompts are posted on our state website. I'll get a link on our Internet page shortly, if you are interested.

## REMINDERS

- ~ **November 16-1/2 day**
- ~ **Weekly Reflection sheets will start coming home. I had forgotten about them for a while. Sorry!**
- ~ **Homework Planning Sheet due Friday.**