

Building Community Through Writing

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- What is community?
- What makes a classroom a community?

Every event in the
classroom becomes part
of the class history.

CLASSROOM EVENTS

- Read Aloud Books
- Thematic Studies
- Shared and Interactive Writing
- Writing Workshop
 - MiniLesson
 - Writing
 - Sharing

The Lemonade Club

by Patricia Polacco

- As we read aloud, make a list of the connections you make to the book.
- Now turn to a couple of neighbors and share your connections.
- Tell me what happened when you shared your connections.

Through Read Alouds:

... we begin to help emergent readers and writers hear the language of the written story.

...we provide models for writing through books by excellent writers.

...we help students make connections to their own experiences.

Thematic Units

- Build a common knowledge and vocabulary
- Build a class history
- Build a common schema

Shared and Interactive Writing...

- Evolve from a previous shared classroom event.
- Begin with group discussions that lead to shared composition.
- Support collaboration of ideas.
- Extend the classroom memories and create new bonds.

The teacher writing in front of the class...

- childhood stories
- family stories
- this classroom's experiences

...lets students become "insiders" on the stories.

All of our stories
(our cultural scripts)
are important to build community in
the classroom.

The teacher's storytelling...

- ...helps students recall their own stories.
- ...helps students connect to the teacher.
- ...gives students permission to tell their own stories.
- ...makes it safe for students to write and share their stories.

Building community means making experiential connections within the classroom, living and telling our stories.

"In our day-to-day lives oral and written language are interwoven like threads in a tapestry, each supporting the other to create the whole picture."

Owen Boyle