



Teaching Real Writing

Quotes and Beliefs

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Beliefs about literacy

- **Literacy is Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening**
- **Children learn literacy through interaction**
- **Literacy experiences should be student centered**
- **Reading and Writing for meaning are paramount**
- **Reading and Writing should have a purpose**
- **Literacy learning must always be rewarding**
- **Reading and Writing are inseparable processes**
- **Children learn to write by writing several kinds of texts**
- **Writing is a powerful tool for learning**
- **The best approach is a combination of approaches**
- **Good first teaching is essential for literacy learning**
- **The foundations for literacy are laid in the early years**
- **Literacy flourishes in a supportive community**
- **Success encourages growth in literacy**

*A response journal is even more focused. The trusted adult teacher is a very important audience.

Just try to give the journals back without responding. You'll have a mutiny. That means they matter.

I Said that.

“The human being struggles with his environment and with the hooks that catch him. Sometimes he masters his difficulties; sometimes they are too much for him. His struggles are all that the world sees and it naturally misunderstands them. It is hard for a free fish to understand what is happening to a hooked one.”

Karl Memminger

**“The tone for a
writing
classroom is
set by what the
teacher does,
not by what the
teacher says.”**

Donald Graves

“If a piece of writing really doesn’t matter, it really doesn’t matter how it’s written.”

Mem Fox

**Everybody is
interesting
and
everybody
has a story.**

**Literacy begins
with
story...having
something to
say to
somebody who
will respond.**

I said that

**“Community
building
begins with
story.”**

Vivian Paley

**“Learning to
know one
another we set
the logical and
emotional
precedents for
all other
learning.”**

Vivian Paley

**“It is surprising
how many so
called problems in
writing disappear
when the child is
placed in the
human drama of
having something
to say to someone
who will respond.”**

James Moffit

**“Children
learn literacy
through
interaction.”**

Mem Fox

**“Open up your
skull... let the
children see your
writing process.**

Lucy Caulkins

**“There is no
such thing as
one child’s
writing being
any better than
any other child’s
writing.”**

Vivian Paley

In a third grade classroom where 50% of the students were second language learners and 75% participated in free and reduced lunch, 36% of the students scored 1-4 years below grade level in reading before using art and drawing as part of the literacy process. After 8 months, 100% scored at or above grade level, with 75% scoring 3-4 years above grade level.

(Siverolli Reading Assessment 2000, John C. Fremont School, Fowler, California)

“Worksheets
are the dead
end streets
of literacy.”

Mem Fox

**“Every writer can
shine with this
process. It
enriches both the
students who have
a hard time with
writing and the
students who are
already fluent.”**

Margaret Belowski, 7th grade teacher

“Image making can no longer be looked at as an adornment to be tacked on at the end of the writing process. Children who struggle verbally are now being given an alternative. Through this dynamic process, (children) come to see how both words and images play critical roles in writing.”

Toby Gordon

Research findings, based on 555 first and second grade writing samples, demonstrate that the rate of improvement in writing skills of participating students is over 4 times greater than that of students participating in traditional Language Arts programs.

(Evaluation of Year-Long Art and Literature Based Approach to Writing. (University of New Hampshire))

“...educators now recognize that children develop unique cognitive structures at different points in their maturation. These cognitive skills determine their problem solving abilities. Piaget suggests that requiring children to perform tasks before they are developmentally ready is counterproductive. Many forms of homework can easily fall into this category.”

Bruell and Kralovec, “Is Homework Makework?”

**In writing we
make a mess.**

**We clean up the
mess through
revision and
editing**

**“If you separate
the creative
impulse from
the judging,
you are less
likely to get
bogged down.”**

Peter Elbow

Clarity, voice, power and control are much more easily developed through letter writing* because perhaps, the audience is so clearly defined and will, if all goes well, respond. Writing for fun is not just for fun—it's for the long-term, conspicuous development of the craft itself.

Mem Fox said that.

*A response journal is even more focused.

The trusted adult teacher is a very important audience and just try to give the journals back without responding. You'll have a mutiny.

***I Said that.**