



Your Place - Your Pace

The Learning Place: A Festival of Literature



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Focus on: Online Literature Festival bigger and better in 2006

In its four years, the Online Literature Festival has grown to what's believed to be the biggest online educational event in Australia.

In 2005, 5595 students from all over Australia and internationally, took part in 114 online events, interacting with 94 notable Australian authors and illustrators.

Senior Project Officer Carolyn Keighley said this year's event, the result of a partnership between the Learning Place and the State Library of Queensland, will be even bigger and better.

The Festival has also received the support of National Literacy Week and the Brisbane Writer's festival.

"The Festival program is still in development," Ms Keighley said.

"But there will probably be over 100 online events with authors and illustrators involved. There'll be Book Raps, at least five book launches, online writing workshops and meet-the-author sessions."

Ms Keighley said that an online literature festival is able to break down geographical and social barriers.

"Students from metropolitan, rural and remote communities can all take part. It's also valuable for shy, disabled and home schooled students. It's a way for students to talk to and question their favour-



ite authors and illustrators – something they may never get the opportunity to do face-to-face."

The Online Literature Festival emphasises the importance of preparation before students engage in an online session, Ms Keighley said.

Every event has a clear focus related to a strong curriculum purpose.

Pre- and post-online activities are supported by quality assured, evaluated curriculum digital resources and activities. Participants take part in practice sessions so that tools are familiar.

Trained moderators assist in directing discussion and keeping students on task, ensuring intellectual quality in online discussions.

"This results in powerful teaching and learning opportunities that promote life-long learning," Ms Keigh-

ley said.

Another result of the Festival, Ms Keighley said, was that over 100 Australian authors and illustrators had had the opportunity to advance their ICT skills, learning to communicate in an online event – and greatly enjoying the process.

"Last year one author commented, 'I hadn't thought of this as a learning tool before – but I've never had a group of students more keen to fire questions at me – and share their thoughts'," she said.

The Online Literature Festival runs between August 28 and September 14, on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of each week. The Festival is free of charge to all schools in Queensland as well as interstate and international schools.

Ready-to-go courses

Books rule and *Crocs rule*

The two Blackboard courses in the Learning Place, *Books rule* and *Crocs rule*, are designed to develop appreciation of and skills in discussing narrative texts and are intended for middle to upper primary students.

Crocs rule is concerned only with Dahl's *The enormous crocodile* whereas *Books rule* can be used with

any book.

A TIP is available to give you a taste of the course before registering. This course has been a winner with reluctant readers.

To register contact the Learning Place or visit <http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace/onlinelearning/courses/ready.html>



Upcoming events

The Learning Place and the State Library of Queensland present the Online Literature Festival.



Yes, Australia's largest online festival is on again in 2006.

The Festival will run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for three consecutive weeks from August 28 – September 14, 2006.

This is the perfect way to keep

the reading excitement from your Book Week celebrations bubbling along.

Students and young people from all primary and secondary schools across Queensland are invited to share ideas, concepts, stories,

rap, conversations with mystery guests and interviews with many of Australia's leading authors and illustrators.

For the latest information visit <http://www.learningplace.com.au/sc/ipswich/olf>



An Australian Government initiative in collaboration with Queensland education authorities.

The Curriculum Exchange Resource Centre

The Curriculum Exchange resource centre has a special list of resources for Children's Book Week, to be celebrated this year from August 19 to 25, with the theme, 'Book now'.

Once in the Curriculum Exchange resource centre navigate from 'Browse by topic' to Curriculum topic >Literature and the arts >Children's book awards.

Among the other relevant topics under Literature and the arts are 'Queensland authors and illustrators', 'Folklore and fairy tales', 'Harry Potter' and 'Children's literature'. Some examples:

EduSites



Children's Book Council of Australia

This official site for the Children's Book of the Year Awards includes winners, commended books, and shortlists.

Australian authors and illustrators for young people

An excellent collection of links to Australian authors' personal sites and publishers' web pages.

Magpies magazine and The Source

Magpies magazine and *The Literature Base* offer a valuable reference, *The Source* which is an online guide to children's fiction, poetry and short stories from around the world.



Database of award-winning children's literature

This database enables the generation of simply annotated reading lists of award-winning books. Users can request lists by age, genre, historical period, year of publication, multicultural emphasis, language or gender.

ASLA: Australian School Library Association: Booklists

A very useful site presenting lists of books for young Australians categorised by subject, theme and format and links to other excellent sites on children's literature with information such as school recommended reading lists and articles on children's books.

TIPS

Note: Teaching Ideas, Practices and Strategies (TIPS) are now available in the new CX resource centre.



Travelling the world through stories

Introduces the unit 'Me and my world', in which Year 2 students travel the world through stories, create passports and have them stamped and map their journey. Created to culminate in Book Week 2004, the unit could easily be adapted to suit the celebration in any year.

Sample book list for upper primary

A list of suggested reading to help teachers and teacher-librarians who want to make recommendations to students in the 10 to 13 year age bracket.

A similar TIP is available for middle primary.

Developing positive attitudes to reading with an outside respondent

The aim of this activity which is great fun for students is to encourage reading through creating a purpose for and identifying the need to read.

Science in literature: Overview

This series of units from one school offers P-3 students the chance to explore science concepts using literature as a springboard. The unit plan provided includes the rationale for using the particular book.

Critical teenagers: Back to the future

The aim of this project is to develop middle school students' ability to use and understand the language of the media and literature through a fiction/nonfiction film and literature unit.

Learning Objects

TLF (The Learning Federation)



Graphing a story
Students are able to view an example (developed for *Roald Dahl's The enormous crocodile*) and make their own picture graph to describe the emotional impact of a fiction text.

Find the resources listed above in the CX resource centre www.learningplace.eq.edu.au/cx/resources/