



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

Members:

Amy Sippert – chair

Nicole Cilley

Teresa Prus

B Whalen

Deb Stensen

Mary Pohlman

Nina Ruskey

Jen Garty

Rachel Huntzicker

Kelsey Guenther



Family Reading Fun

In this issue the focus is on the Writing standards, a part of the Common Core State Standards. Listed below you will find Writing Standard #3 and what it looks like at a kindergarten, fourth grade, seventh grade and high school level. The standard is as follows:

Writing Standard 3

- K** Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.
- 4** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. (4.3.D) Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- 7** Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely. (7.3.D) Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- 11-12** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences. (11-12.3.D) Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

These standards address the skill of writing a story in order with descriptive details that help the reader clearly understand and visualize the events of a story.

Literacy Tips

For the young reader: After taking a trip to the park, a zoo or another family outing, have your child draw pictures showcasing the important things that happened. Then have your child write about the experience in order using words such as first, next, then and last.

For the teen reader: Begin by having your child talk through an experience. Focus on the big ideas or events. Have your child elaborate on those ideas and events by saying things such as, "Tell me more." After your child has written the story, go back and look at word choice. Are there any words he or she can change to make the language more explicit or powerful? For example, instead of saying "funny", say "hilarious."

Wisconsin State Reading Association www.wsra.org



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Author Spotlight



Reading a great narrative book can be the perfect starting point for writing narrative. Check out the following authors for books to introduce your child to narrative writing.

Marc Brown

This author / illustrator was born in Erie, PA. He grew up surrounded by wonderful storytellers. He inherited the gift of storytelling. One successful result, was the creation of his beloved character "Arthur,"

Since his creation, 35 years ago, Brown has written and illustrated about 100 Arthur books. The books focus on literacy and the modeling of positive social and problem-solving skills. This award winning author splits his time between his home in Martha's Vineyard and New York City. To find out more about Brown and Arthur, visit www.marcbrownstudios.com.

Eve Bunting

Born in Ireland, Bunting also grew up in a family of storytellers. Moving from Ireland to California in 1958, Bunting enrolled in a writing class and later published her first story. Since that time this award winning author has published more than 100 books for children and young adults. Bunting has been quoted as saying that she writes for every age and every interest and likes to write picture books that make kids wonder and ask questions. Go to your local library and check out one of her books today.

To see the Common Core State Standards go to www.corestandards.org

Website Spotlight

Help your child use more descriptive, powerful words by using a website such as www.wordcentral.com or an app such as the Merriam-Webster app. Both sources include a thesaurus feature that can help your child choose the perfect word to use in his or her writing.

****Look for our September issue when we focus on more Writing CCSS.****