

Course: “The Big Five in Literacy”

Date: October 4-November 15, 2010

Course Description: In this six week course we will take a close look at how we are currently teaching **phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension** to our students. Through group discussions, reading literature, sharing current and online resources and describing what we think works (and does not work), we will assess how we can make our teaching even better and more beneficial to our students.

I believe that the ideas that we will focus on in this course-phonemic awareness, phonics, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency," The Big Five" are essential to the success and academic progression of all of our students.

Each week we will focus on one of the five literary components.

Week 1: Introduce yourselves and become familiar with the vocabulary of the course.

Week 2: Focus: Phonemic Awareness

Week 3: Focus: Phonics

Week 4: Focus: Fluency

Week 5: Focus: Comprehension

Week 6: Focus: Vocabulary

Instructor: My name is Tara Hudson and I am a kindergarten teacher in the Westhampton Beach School District. I am a certified K-6 elementary and K-12 special education teacher who has taught for seven years and enjoys it immensely! I am very interested in teaching literacy, as I believe that it is the foundation for beginning learners and that it is so important that children be immersed in literature from a very young age. Although I do not declare myself to be an expert by any means, I am fortunate that my school district provides wonderful training for its teachers and also provides us with a plethora of resources to teach literacy. I teach literary concepts all day long, in both literacy blocks and integrated into other subject areas as well.

Course Goals and Objectives:

During our six weeks together we will address NYS ELA Standards 1, 2, 3,4

- Students will log on a minimum of 3 days per week
- Students will be active participants in our discussions (respond to at least two classmates each week)
- Students will help others learn new ideas and teaching strategies by describing your current literacy instruction.
- Students will share lesson ideas for phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary & comprehension.
- Students will respond to each other by sharing what works and does not in these lessons.
- In order to gain new insight or a better understanding of the five components, students will read and respond to articles on each of the five literary components discussed.
- Adding new resources is always useful. Students will find an online resource each week which addresses the literary component discussed that week.

Prerequisite skills: Participants need to be comfortable using the Internet to search, download, copy and paste links and use email. Microsoft Office will be necessary and knowledge creating and attaching documents in Microsoft word is required.

Recommendation for In-Service Credit:

Recommendation for In-Service Credit will be based on successful completion of all course requirements. Work must be authentic and students must be active participants in the discussion each week.

Students must:

- Log on a minimum of 3 days per week
- Be active participants in our discussions
- Complete all assignments with a minimum of a satisfactory grade (for both written work and discussion)

Contact Information: tarahudson2005@yahoo.com

I will check this twice a day. Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Lastly, relax and enjoy and make it your goal to learn something new!