

Title of Session: LOC Learning Page Chat - Poetry and Literature

Moderator: Leni Donlan

Title of File: 20050519locpoetry

Date: May 19, 2005

Room: After School Online

LeniD: Well those of you who are here have a real treat, tonight! Shall we get started, Michael?

MichaelH: Hello, everyone. Welcome to tonight's Learning Page Chat

BJB2 waits for Michael to remind everyone to detach

MichaelH waves to Julie

LeniD: Welcome, Julie:-)

MichaelH: oh, yeah... do you all know how to "detach"?

JulieGer: Hi

CherylLe: Hi, Julie

AnneSa joined the room.

AnneSa: Sorry, everyone! I closed the wrong window.

GailP: Welcome back, Anne

MichaelH: I was going to introduce Leni and the session tonight with the lyrics to the old Johnny Burnette song "Poetry in Motion"...

LeniD: It happens, Anne:-)

MichaelH: but I figured Leni would have a better intro for us tonight

LeniD: Awww...That's very clever, Michael!

GailP: If we only had sound

MichaelH: you just don't wanna hear me sing, Leni

LeniD: LOL. Sounds as though Gail does!

AnneSa: Me, too!

MichaelH: No, Gail... NO!!!!

LeniD: How about some introductions, then we'll get started.

LeniD: I'm Leni Donlan. I coordinate the Learning Page project at the Library of Congress.

GailP: I'm work at the Library of Congress - Learning Page - retired librarian from NY

CherylLe: I work on the Learning Page, also

MichaelRu: Technology Integration Teacher, NY

MichaelH is a social studies teacher in southern Indiana

AnneSa: I'm Anne Savage and I work at the Library of Congress, too. Former teacher.

GailP: Where, Michael?

CherylLe: Oh, yes, former teacher, too

MichaelRu: Williamsville (suburb of Buffalo)

GailP: I'm from Rochester!

LeniD: Former teacher as well

MichaelRu: once a teacher, always a teacher...

LeniD: Uh oh...small world time, Gail?

GailP: The older you get, the smaller it becomes

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and am always fascinated by Leni's sessions.

GailP: Well, she has lots to share tonight about LOC

GailP: Poetry and Literature!

LeniD: Wonderful! Tonight we are talking about Poetry and Literature connections...

LeniD: Three of my esteemed colleagues have joined us and will share some curricular connections that they have been developing.

LeniD: I'll also be sharing a number of links that you won't want to miss!

LeniD: So.... let's start thinking about the connections that primary sources can provide to books, poetry, and language arts in general. Are you ready?

CherylLe: I've been creating an alternative to traditional poetry analysis by hyperlinking words from a poem to primary sources such as maps, images, and sound recordings.

LeniD: Hang on for a minute, please, Cheryl:-)

CherylLe: OK

LeniD: "Poetry connects us with our deep roots, our evolution as an animal that evolved rhythmic language as a means of transmitting vital information across the generations. We need to communicate not only with our peers but our ancestors and descendants, and the arts of poetry, writing, print, digital media serve that communication." ~ Robert Pinsky

MargaretTK joined the room.

GailP: Pinsky is a past poet laureate

LeniD: I think Pinsky describes the power of communication so well!

LeniD: Hello Margaret

LeniD: And Ezra Pound said, "Great Literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree."

MichaelH: we're just getting started Margaret...

LeniD: Think about how we can reach our learners even more deeply when we pair the power of this "charged" language with primary sources.

MargaretTK: Great! good to be here

LeniD: Have any of you tried pairing literature or poetry and primary sources?

MichaelH has

CherylLe: Me too

LeniD: What happened when you did so?

GailP: Me many times

EllenJD joined the room.

LeniD: Welcome Ellen!

CherylLe: Hi Ellen

LeniD: Cheryl has agreed to talk with us about work she has been doing on hyperlinking a Whitman poem. Would you tell us about this, please, Cheryl?

EllenJD: Hello

GailP: Increased understanding - more meaning to the text

MichaelH: I'll defer to Cheryl and Gail... I have done some PBS stuff for WW I on this.

MichaelH waves to Ellen

LeniD: Yep...So true, Gail!

CherylLe: Here's what I've been working with:

CherylLe: "O Captain! My Captain!" by Walt Whitman

CherylLe: O Captain! my Captain, our fearful trip is done,

CherylLe: The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,

CherylLe: The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,

CherylLe: While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;

CherylLe: I made these connections:

CherylLe: (From the literal for the title)

CherylLe: "O Captain! My Captain!" <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field%28DOCID+@lit%28mcc/055%29%29>

CherylLe: And then to selected portions of text

CherylLe: O Captain! my Captain [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/varstg:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(varshoud+3a27314\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/varstg:@field(NUMBER+@band(varshoud+3a27314))), our fearful trip is done,

CherylLe: (To figurative)

CherylLe: The ship [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq\(@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g3701s+cw0004000\)\)+@field\(COLLID+cwmap\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@filreq(@field(NUMBER+@band(g3701s+cw0004000))+@field(COLLID+cwmap))) has weather'd every rack [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/berl:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(berl+136012\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/berl:@field(NUMBER+@band(berl+136012))))

CherylLe: Stop me if I go too fast - this is a new experience for me

GailP: If you were doing this with your students, you would have a have a hyperlinked text file - the urls wouldn't get in the way!

MichaelH: You're fine, Cheryl

GailP: Cheryl is doing great!

CherylLe: the prize <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=mal&fileName=mal1/172/1723200/malpage.db&recNum=0> we sought is won,

LeniD: Perfect, Cheryl

CherylLe: Of course, it is less distracting when the URLs are "buried" in the link, but this is the general idea.

LeniD: Could use this hyperlinking strategy with your students?

AnneSa: Cheryl, I think this is such an exciting idea.

CherylLe: I've been working in Word, but more sophisticated technologies would work, too

GailP: It could be poetry - or other types of literature with great language!

LeniD: I think it would make a wonderful web page.

LeniD: Can you think of other poems that might work?

LeniD: Do you think students would like creating such projects?

GailP: Michael - would this be something that you could use with kids/teachers?

AnneSa: One more question - Cheryl, Why did you choose a map image to represent the "ship?"

MargaretTK: Not to be off topic, but I will be participating in a LEH (Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities) Summer Institute -- The Women's War: Re-visioning the Civil War.

LeniD: Do you think it would be a good way to share their understanding?

MichaelH does

LeniD: That sounds exciting, Margaret!

MichaelH: I think that the poetry of the Civil War (Whitman for example) definitely brings a new focus into that time

CherylLe: I picked the map to represent the "ship" that Lincoln (captain) was guiding

GailP: Surely does, Margaret - and maybe you can share this idea - focused on women in the war

MichaelH: Oh, Captain is probably one I would pick, but there are a lot of other Whitman poems

LeniD: I'll share some of that later, Michael

MargaretTK: This is my 4th LEH summer institute & 3rd with this professor. We may get to visit Ernest Gaines.

CherylLe: That sounds fantastic, Margaret

LeniD: Gail has been working with what she calls, "Book Backdrops." Gail, will you share with us why and how you create these backdrops, please?

GailP: Thanks, Cheryl - that helps - and if kids do this activity, there would be no "right image" - up to each one!

GailP: Oops, my turn!

GailP: We have such a wealth of wonderful literature -

GailP: and I think that using that to make primary source connections is a great way to hook kids.

GailP: Here is an idea for using historical fiction books to make primary source connections for your students and help them understand the time period of the novel.

GailP: I call it "Book Backdrops" – I'll show you an example using the title Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan.

MargaretTK: The prof developed the course after only finding a very few references to women in Ken Burn's companion book.

GailP: The story is set in the Midwest in the 1880s and is about a father who invites a mail-order bride from Maine to come live with his family on the prairie in Kansas.

GailP: Do you know this story??? You could use any title!

MargaretTK: I love that story, Gail.

GailP: Great, Margaret!

LeniD: One of my favorites, Gail

GailP: The LOC has several collections that fit in perfectly with the topic of frontier and pioneer life. There is the Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920 Collection – full of wonderful images from the period. Using these can help students visualize the setting of the story.

GailP: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ndfahtml/ngphome.html>

GailP: Here is an image of a sod house in Kansas [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(ndfahult+b009\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfahult+b009)))

DavidWe: ooh, sod houses!

GailP: And a rural school in North Dakota [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(ndfahult+b358a\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/ngp:@field(NUMBER+@band(ndfahult+b358a)))

GailP: And another wonderful collection to explore - Prairie Settlement: Nebraska Photographs and Family Letters

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award98/nbhihtml/pshome.html>

CherylLe: I love this one

GailP: It includes this Solomon Butcher image of Orson Cooley with his mail order bride. [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/psbib:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(p2882\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/psbib:@field(DOCID+@lit(p2882)))

DavidWe . o O (Thank goodness for the Sears catalog)

LeniD: Now there is definitely a story to tell in that image!

MargaretTK: I think I will check out American Memory for my course. Louisiana Digital Library is also a very neat site. How many other states have similar sites?

GailP: Take a couple of minutes and explore - then I have a couple more links!

LeniD: LOL, David!

DavidWe laughs

MichaelH: Gail, do you have students read the entire book, or just selections from it?

LeniD: Margaret, many states now have such sites and they are wonderful!

DavidWe imagines that the current version is "e-mail order brides"

AnneSa: These are wonderful, Gail. Does everyone know that you can click on the "thumbnails" of images to get a much bigger one?

LeniD: I suspect David may be right.

GailP: Well, Michael - being the librarian - I give the teachers the ideas and it is up to them. I think it depends on how they structure the "reading experience"

GailP: And we have MAPS! Students can explore an 1897 map of Kansas from the Maps Collections [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g4201p+rr002230\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@field(NUMBER+@band(g4201p+rr002230)))

DavidWe loves old maps

MichaelH: I didn't know if a typical class would have enough time to read the book...

CherylLe: This one rewards a close zoom, too

MichaelH: I guess they could watch the video as well...

GailP: This one is wonderful - so much detail - and you can zoom in on the LOC maps to see detail!

MargaretTK: David--don't laugh. I think this is going on right now. I think I know at least two.

GailP: Well, of course!

GailP: The bride came from Maine....so students can view an early map of Maine [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(g3734b+pm002430\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gmd:@field(NUMBER+@band(g3734b+pm002430)))

DavidWe nods to Margaret

GailP: And even view cybercast of the author – Patricia MacLachlan – who was a presenter at the 2004 Book Festival. <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest/04/cybercasts/index.html>

LeniD: I love this idea, Gail. I think you are really "on" to something wonderful for teachers and students.

GailP: If you link to the festival site, you'll find Patricia MacLachlan's name (and many more)

DavidWe isn't a classroom teacher (and doesn't work with history teachers that much) but wonders if students today have difficulty relating to the trials and tribulations of pioneer life

GailP: Then if you click on her name, you will link to our webcast of her talk...you'll need RealPlayer loaded to view it!

LeniD: David, I think that's where primary sources really help.

DavidWe agrees

CherylLe: How often do you encounter a sod house these days?

GailP: Absolutely, Leni - how can you really paint a picture in your mind of a sod house -

DavidWe: Well, students in different places HAVE MADE straw bale houses

GailP: but seeing a picture gives it meaning!

DavidWe nods

DavidWe: Making it would be a great project - even a small one, a sod dog house, perhaps

LeniD: Yes, the hands on experience is pretty important, too, David.

GailP: The possibilities for connections are endless – you can use picture books or novels – the technique works for almost any historical fiction book you choose!

DavidWe agrees with Leni, as usual

MargaretTK: What about "bousillage"? (mud & Spanish moss)

GailP: I have uploaded a file in my office with a dozen titles and links - you are welcome to go there and download the files!

LeniD: Oh, that sounds intriguing, Margaret!

DavidWe: Is that a French word, Margaret, or...?

MargaretTK: Mais oui!

DavidWe . o O (Cajun?)

DavidWe smiles

DavidWe . o O (bien sûr)

MargaretTK: Mais yeah, cher

DavidWe laughs

LeniD: Moving right along

GailP: By the way, my office is my Tapped In Office!

LeniD: Anne has been working with ways to “re-mix” content and with ways to use primary source content “reflectively.” Anne, would you share “found poetry” ideas, please?

CherylLe: I think Anne left the room

GailP: I'll find her links

LeniD: Oops... So she has!

CherylLe: Found Poetry Source Article

CherylLe:

http://learning.loc.gov/learn/community/am_newsletter/article.php?id=40&catname=teaching%20ideas

GailP: Cheryl - you're fast!

LeniD: Playing with text to “re-mix” the “stuff” of history. Is really intriguing.

CherylLe: This article includes an example of student produced poetry

LeniD: Take a look at the article and see if it triggers some good ideas.

CherylLe: from a historical document

CherylLe: It links to the full lesson

CherylLe: Found Poetry Lesson Plan

CherylLe: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/98/poetry/poem.html>

LeniD: Have you created experiences for your kids to “re-mix” text?

LeniD: I think it is a fascinating idea...

GailP: Is the "found poetry" term familiar?

CherylLe: My son was talking about creating found poetry from a news article

GailP: I've heard teachers say that this "levels the playing field" - all students can do this, because the language is provided for them.

DavidWe: Anyone have a definition?

GailP: They make the choices!

CherylLe: The idea adapts well to a variety of text sources

LeniD: (having some computer hiccups, here. Sorry)

GailP: That is a great idea, Cheryl

CherylLe: David, it's the process of "finding" poetry in prose

LeniD: "Found Poetry" is a poem made from "found" text.

GailP: Or you could use a document - like the Constitution - the Gettysburg Address -

DavidWe nods to Cheryl

GailP: It makes the kids really look at and read the words!

LeniD: First person accounts, news articles, etc, would also work.

LeniD: It also allows kids to make the content their own, and bring their own reflective thinking into it.

GailP: Good point, Leni!

GailP: Again - there is no "right" answer or poem!

LeniD: We don't have a great deal of time left, but I want to give you a peek at some resources you won't want to miss...

LeniD: So fasten your seat belts...

LeniD: Here we go!

DavidWe steadies himself

LeniD: Explore the poetry and literature offerings of the Library of Congress...

LeniD: Poetry and Literature Center

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/>

LeniD: If you use poetry with your students, I think you will love this resource created by our current Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser...

LeniD: American Life in Poetry

LeniD: <http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org/>

CherylLe: Kooser's poetry is very accessible

LeniD: Kooser is very accessible

LeniD: Explore this guide to the poetic endeavors of U.S. Presidents...

LeniD: Presidents as Poets

MargaretTK: Looks neat. BTW, any of y'all did anything for National Poetry Month?

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/prespoetry/index.html>

GailP: This would be an interesting addition to the traditional "President Report"

LeniD: Definitely

GailP: And kids could even make "found poetry" from their speeches

LeniD: Yep!

LeniD: And this article from the Learning Page "The Source" is sure to touch off some ideas of your own..

LeniD: Blessed Ted-Fred: Famous Fathers Write to Their Children

LeniD:

http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/am_newsletter/article.php?id=39&catname=teaching%20ideas

MargaretTK: We have a big poetry unit in grade 8 (probably other grades) in the new Louisiana comprehensive curriculum.

GailP: Margaret - could you somehow share that with us later? Or can we find it online?

LeniD: Excellent!

CherylLe: Old dead guys, Margaret? Or do they branch out?

LeniD: LOL!

GailP: Cheryl lives with teenagers

LeniD: Don't miss this excursion into American literature through literary maps, photographs and quotations from works by American authors...

LeniD: Language of the Land: Journeys Into Literary America

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/land/landintr.html>

LeniD: (a personal favorite)

GailP: This is a wonderful wonderful resource

DavidWe looks

CherylLe: some unexpected treasures

GailP: Especially the literary maps!

MargaretTK: No--all really neat stuff. Mainly PBL things (project based learning) I'll get you the URL.

GailP: Explore your area of the country and you will find them (literary maps)

CherylLe: Great, Margaret

GailP: Thanks, Margaret!

LeniD: Would love that, Margaret.

LeniD: Learn about the Harlem Renaissance in this section of the African American Odyssey exhibition...

LeniD: The Harlem Renaissance and the Flowering of Creativity

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aahtml/exhibit/aopart7b.html>

MargaretTK: Here are the links to all the comprehensive curriculum:
<http://www.doe.state.la.us/lde/ssa/2108.html>

GailP: Perfect, Margaret!

LeniD: Thanks!

LeniD: This chapter from the online presentation - The World of 1898: The Spanish American War - covers some of the prominent authors from countries involved in the war. Stephen Crane, Walt Whitman and Mark Twain...

LeniD: are featured American authors. Entries include information on how their lives and works related to the war, lists of their major works, and relevant excerpts from their writings...

LeniD: Literature of the Spanish-American War

LeniD: Do you think they would like creating linked poetry projects?

LeniD: Oops...Sorry about that extraneous comment.

SusanR joined the room.

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/literature.html>

DavidWe waves to Susan

AnneSa: Welcome, Susan!

LeniD: Hello Susan, Welcome.

MargaretTK: Just check out the English Language Arts for the different grade levels.

SusanR: Hi Leni

LeniD: Your site looks worthy of lengthy exploration, Margaret. Thanks!

GailP: This is a thank you link for Margaret! Louisiana Literature! Explore later
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi->

[bin/map_item.pl?style=langland&title=Louisiana%20Literature&data=/langland/land36.s
id&itemLink=http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/land/landsout.html%23land36](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/land/landsout.html%23land36)

LeniD: You can listen to a selection of audio interviews with several poets who have read their work at the Library of Congress...

LeniD: Poet and the Poem

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/poetpoem.html>

GailP: The webcasts at LOC are increasing daily!

MargaretTK: I'm having good luck sampling our goodies tonight.

GailP: Great, Margaret!

DavidWe wonders if the US Poet Laureate has an office at the LOC

LeniD: Here's another article that may be of interest from The Source...

LeniD: The Quilt as Metaphor

LeniD:

[http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/am_newsletter/article.php?id=33&catname=teac
hing%20ideas](http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/am_newsletter/article.php?id=33&catname=teaching%20ideas)

DavidWe: Oooh!

MargaretTK: I use FireFox & I just right=click

LeniD: He does, David!

AnneSa: Wow! There might be a connection in that last one for you, BJ, as an art teacher.

DavidWe needs to share a Math Forum - Textile Museum collaboration: Symmetry and Pattern The Art of Oriental Rugs

DavidWe: <http://www.mathforum.org/geometry/rugs/>

BJB2: absolutely, Anne. I often use quilts as a connection to math and lang arts

LeniD: Great one, David! Thanks

AnneSa: That's wonderful to hear, BJB

LeniD: One of our staff favorites... by a former Poet Laureate...

GailP: Here is a link to info about Ted Kooser, Poet Laureate and the position of Poet Laureate. http://www.loc.gov/poetry/laureate_current.html

DavidWe: Sure, Leni

LeniD: Favorite Poem Project

LeniD: <http://www.favoritepoem.org/>

DavidWe: o O (Article about Stanley Kunitz - current Poet Laureate - in today's NYTimes, I believe)

LeniD: I'll have to look for that, David. Thanks.

LeniD: We would be remiss if we didn't share...

LeniD: I Hear America Singing

LeniD: <http://leweb2.loc.gov/cocoon/ihas/html/whitman/whitman-home.html>

MargaretTK: That would be great. I need to do a materials correlation for K-6 math. In our comprehensive curriculum math has a lot more words than numbers.

DavidWe: He's a gardener, in Provincetown, Mass.

DavidWe: Do you know about the Math Forum, Margaret?

MichaelH looks at the clock on the clubhouse wall...

LeniD: We could go on and on...

LeniD: There are cybercasts, lesson plans, collection connections...

DavidWe nods

LeniD: There is content from the Wise Guide and from America's Library to use directly with your students...

LeniD: You can find all of this and a good deal more in the Literature and Poetry Community Center! Enjoy...

MargaretTK: No, but I'll try to connect with them.

MargaretTK: I'm assuming that the Math Forum is on Tapped In

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_literature.php

DavidWe . o O (Math Forum - www.mathforum.org)

AnneSa: Looking forward to seeing you there!

GailP: Come and visit us!

LeniD: Wonderful We will have to have a Tapped In get together

LeniD: We hope you will come back for our final chat of this school year on Thursday, June 23 at 8:00 P.M. Our topic will be, "The Environment."

DavidWe: Thank you, O Library of Congress!

GailP: This was a great chat and thanks for your ideas and sharing

MichaelH: Sounds great, Leni!

LeniD: You are welcome. Thank you all for sharing your ideas!

DavidWe: You guys are the best!

MargaretTK: I really got some great sites.

MichaelRu: Lots of great ideas and resources - thank you so much

MichaelH: I suggested I didn't want to put them through that sort of torture

GailP: Great, Margaret.

LeniD: Good to hear, Margaret!

LeniD: Margaret, the next chat is June 23

GailP: If you want my files, I'll go there for 5 minutes or so...

GailP: You can tell I need an office manager!

DavidWe: You can also "leave" them there and people can come by to get them subsequently

MargaretTK: Will try to visit you later.

LeniD: Night all. Thanks for joining us.

DavidWe: Thanks, Leni. Bye

MichaelH: goodnight, Leni!