Forsyth County Reading Association Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2018 4:30 pm

Redeemer Church—Room 110

Members enjoyed a chicken & quinoa dish and salad provided by BJ’s Brewhouse.

Janice Lievens began the formal meeting at 5:00 pm.

Janice reminded everyone to sign up to receive BJ’s Awesome Achievement certificates.

The link is <https://www.bjsrestaurants.com/community/kids-and-families/awesome-achievement>.

BJ’s has been extremely generous in donating our meals, so we want to support them.

Janice talked about the Young Authors competition.

This year’s Young Authors theme is “What Makes Your Heart Lift Up”.

Submissions will be due at our November 15 meeting.

Jeannie Evans provided the Secretary’s Report from our last meeting. It will be posted on the FCRA webpage.

Janice requested that members sign in each meeting both on the sign-in sheet and on their page in the

membership notebook.

Cheryl Key provided the Treasurer’s Report.

Our balance as of October 18 was ~$1,123.73. Dues will need to be paid from our account to NCRA.

She reminded everyone to bring in pull tabs from sodas and other cans for Ronald McDonald House.

Janice introduced our speaker, FCRA Membership Coordinator and Professor of Education at Appalachian State University, Dr. Rebecca Jordan, to present “Process Writing in the Writing Workshop”

Rebecca shared the story Ralph Tells a Story by Abby Hanlon to provide an idea of what a writing

workshop is and how it can help all student writers.

Some of the key points she shared were:

1. Don’t overemphasize conventions in student writing. The goal is for them to produce good content.
2. Give clear instruction before students write so you have less correction to do afterward.
3. When conferencing with a student,

Focus first on the “positives” in a student’s writing.

Pick the “one next thing” to be improved in writing and challenge the student to focus

on getting that right in his/her next writing experience.

1. The most effective way for students to increase their writing skills is to WRITE! Give lots of opportunities for practice.
2. Teachers must present and model good writing strategies so that students can know what to do and how to do it.
3. Writing Workshop allows teachers to “apprentice” students in their writing.
4. Students must be given authentic subjects to write about—something that matters to them.
5. Different students will be at different points in the writing process at any given time.

These steps include Brainstorm🡪Draft🡪Edit🡪Peer Edit🡪Revise🡪Peer

Revise🡪Publish.

Students will continuously cycle through these stages.

1. Writing Workshop should take about 20 minutes and include these elements:

Teacher presents a mini-lesson on a writing skill.

Possible topics include establishing routines, using writer’s notebook, developing ideas, drafting, revising, editing skills, content, genres, publishing, presenting, or anything else that you notice that is challenging for them.

Student comes up with ideas and engages productively with others.

Teacher does 3-4 minute writing conferences with students.

Students “publish” their work in some way and share it in the Author’s Chair.

1. Writing Journals—help students figure out what to write about
2. Read Mentor Texts with students—texts that demonstrate or relate to the skill being

taught.

1. Treat students as authors by displaying their work at school or on the internet (kidblog.org),

writing to pen pals, exchanging writing with another class, submitting to Young Authors

1. After a student shares in Author’s Chair, ask how the mini lesson helped to make that writing stronger.
2. Possible resources to use: Writing Workshop—Ralph Letcher and Storyjumper.com

Rebecca also reminded everyone to apply for the new cohort for Appalachian’s Reading Certification/Masters

program that will be starting in Winston-Salem in the spring.

The meeting ended with the distribution of door prizes.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeannie Evans, Secretary