



America Reads in 2010

Great Expectations

Thank you to all of you who submitted your mid-term evaluations for America Reads program. The prompt responses and feedback were fabulous to read.

We received 72 evaluations on students progress, some assessed individuals and entire classrooms. We received 11 evaluations from teachers and reading specialists who work with our RSVP volunteers. The 11 teacher's who returned their evaluations estimate, our RSVP America Reads volunteers are impacting the lives of about 570 children. So a fair projection if all evalua-

tions were returned, the RSVP volunteers are reaching approximately 1,700 students in Delaware County! Very impressive and well done!

From Literacy Coaches and teachers, the most common comment to help improve the program at their school, "We would love to have more volunteers," said Maureen O'Brien, Literacy Coach at Darby Township School. Part of which makes this program a huge success is the relationships that are formed between the teachers and volunteers and the volunteers and



Volunteers do have a positive impact!

students. "I love this school! It is extremely well administered. The students are very polite and respectful and for the most part, bright and eager to learn. The principal and faculty are all very friendly and helpful. It's a real pleasure to tutor here!" said Zee Sailer, RSVP tutor at Woodlyn Elementary.

With all the progress that is being made RSVP would like to host an America Reads "Wrap-Up" at the end of the year for volunteers, teachers and reading specialist. We are looking for a school to host this first-time ever event. The time, date and location will be announced in the May update.

RSVP America Reads Update

March 2010



Special Thanks to

Ralph Painter...Pennell Elementary school teachers and students I met there! Thank you for your kindness and consideration while allowing me to interview and take photos of Ralph with your students!

Quote:

Books are the legacies that a great genius leaves to mankind, which are delivered down from generation to generation as presents to the posterity of those who are yet unborn.

~ Joseph Addison

Helping children understand what they read

Reading involves making sense of the written word, or, in today's popular phrase, making meaning. Some children pronounce words correctly and read with apparent ease, but don't know the meaning of

what they have read. As children increase their vocabularies, they begin to take more meaning from text.

You can help by encouraging a child to talk about

what she has read, by pointing out new words and explaining their meaning, and by using strategies such as the K-W-L approach to help children understand what they read. (continued page 2).

RSVP America Reads Update

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Connecting People to Purpose



Continued from page 1: You can help by encouraging a child to talk about what she has read, by pointing out new words and explaining their meaning, and by using strategies such as the **K-W-L approach** to help children understand what they read. The **K-W-L** approach includes the following steps:

K - What I know.

Help the child list what he already knows about a topic that is discussed in a book he is going to read.

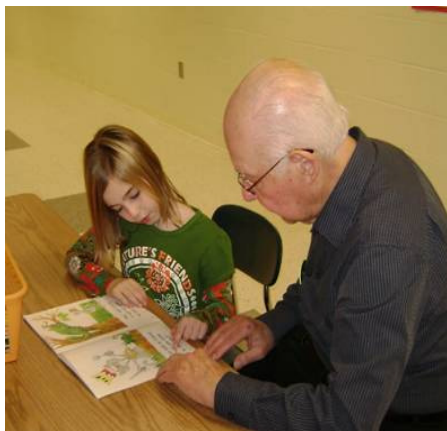
W - What I want to know.

Help the child think of some questions he has about this topic and add them to the chart.

L - What I learned or still need to learn.

Explain that while he reads the book - alone or with you - he can think about what he is learning. After the reading, discuss the book and add what was learned to the chart along with any information he still needs to learn.

Reminder: Please report your hours to Lynn Shelton at the end of every month by the 5th date of the following month. You may call in your hours, send them via email or snail-mail, or even fax them! Thanks to everyone for tracking and submitting their hours.



Ralph listens as Julia McGehean, first grader at Pennell Elementary, reads a story.

"I have been reading with Ms. Abrams' classes since I first joined the RSVP Paired Reading program 11 years ago," said Mr. Painter.

Ms. Abrams' class is a transitional class (T-1) between kindergarten and first grade. Mr. painter reads with two children a week so that each child has at least two 1:1 reading sessions with him

Meet AR Volunteer: Ralph Painter

during the school year.

"Mr. Painter is invited to all of our 'special days'. In December, he is a special guest at our holiday show that we present on the stage. During the month of February, he helps us at our Valentine card exchange as he is one of our class's special valentines. Then, at the end of the year, he is a special guest at our 'Gentleman's Breakfast' and acts as a surrogate father or grandfather for a child who is need of this special guest. Although he helps us with our reading, he is so much more to our class. I feel so fortunate to have had Mr. Painter be my class's RSVP volunteer for the past 11 years. He is our class's special friend. Thank-you Mr. Painter," Said Abrams.

"What is fascinating about children of this age is that you are able to see the progress between the beginning and the end of the school year. In other words,

I am reading to them in October; they are reading to me in May," said Painter.

He volunteers at Pennell Elementary and has a fabulous working relationship with several of the teachers there as he works with classrooms Pre-k to 3rd Grade.

" Some teachers prefer to have the same two students read each week. They choose the book and read at their own pace, interrupted only by the need for help with a word or a short discussion of the story. However, the majority of teachers select two--sometimes three--different readers each week," said Painter.

Ralph's background is in the printing industry. "Words and books have always fascinated me; the RSVP America Reads program is a wonderful way to pass on that enthusiasm to others."