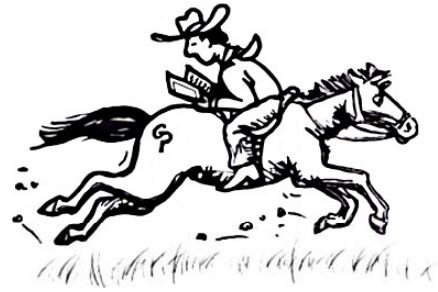


LIBRARY NOTES



Grand Prairie Independent School District
Grand Prairie, TX 75052

V.14, No.4
February 2, 2009

Watch the Book

Kathy Nichols - GPH9 Library

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What is happening in the library with books these days? Many are being advertised by creating book trailers. These book trailers can build suspense and mystery, show drama, and much more, which leads to students choosing books they might not normally read. Creating book trailers is a great way for librarians to promote books in their libraries and connect books with students. It even draws in those reluctant readers who normally would not consider reading books.

At the Grand Prairie Ninth Grade Center, Mrs. Roden's English classes created book trailers on books currently being read outside of class. Mrs. Nichols, the librarian, showed each class a book trailer she created using the Photostory software program. Students were given guidelines from Mrs. Nichols and Mrs. Roden and rose to the task. Some specifics in creating a book trailer are:

1. Take notes on important parts of the plot of the book
2. Note pictures you might want to use
3. Do not give away the plot but give just enough information to create interest
4. Text, music, and transitions can be used
5. Give credit to any pictures used in the project
6. Give credit to yourself

Photostory is a software program that can be downloaded from Microsoft for free on the Windows XP system or above. For information on Photostory use the following link: <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/PhotoStory/default.mspx>.

Creative Commons (<http://creativecommons.org>) is a great website where students can search for images that can be modified, adapted, or built upon. Using this website allows users to cite one source on the credit page.

The book trailers, created by the librarian and students, are currently being placed on the following web page: <http://campus.gpisd.org/gphs9/Library/BookTrailers/tabid/3395/Default.aspx>
Check it out frequently for books.



"Mane" Attractions at a Glance

"Mane" Attractions at a Glance

Parent & Community Conference & Health Fair

DOOR PRIZES...
books, dinners,
car washes,
oil changes,
& more...!



**9th Annual
Title I Conference
Saturday, Feb. 7th
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Free Health Fair from
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Grand Prairie HS
9th Grade Center
102 High School Drive**

- **Free Immunizations**
- **Workshops**
- **Dental & blood pressure checks**
- **75 booths with lots of valuable information**

WOW!



Animals: Fact or Fiction?

Kathy Brundrett – Austin Library

Do you know what has 4 legs, two eyes and leopard spots? No, it isn't a leopard. It's a leopard gecko! That was just one of the creatures at Science Exploration Fair in our library during the month of January. Students could come into the library, check out or read books about animals, and then actually see the real thing. We even found some interesting facts on the computer as we researched tarantulas with some of our students. Do you know how to make a tornado? Have you ever made your own bubble gum? Did you know that you can make warbles grow into marbles, just by adding water? There were also growing alligators, dinosaur eggs, lizard

eggs, and snake eggs. Many students now have new pets to care for and read about. This science experience was a great success!

Role Playing and Trading Cards

Christine Rayl – Bowie Library

The Bowie Boys' Reading Group has recently finished *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan and is on their way towards reading the second book, *The Sea of Monsters*. While we wait for our new books to arrive, the boys have been role-playing the various Greek gods, learning their personalities, duties and roles, as well as the connections between them. The boys have begun making trading cards, complete with pictures of the gods, and are making literary connections between the gods and the roles that they play in the novels.

What is fascinating is the way that these boys have not only assimilated the story and events found in *The Lightning Thief*; they have begun to recognize the relationships between mythological characters and stories within literature today. This is a great group of 5th grade boys who have definitely found the entertainment factor that is inherent in good books!

Logical Thinking Gets One Thinking!

Logic problems can be fun and entertaining as we jumpstart our brains and learn how to think. Ms. Rodriguez's fifth grade class did just that as they were introduced to the age-old problem of a man with a fox, chicken, and grain that needs to get them to the other side of the river. The man cannot leave the fox unattended with the chicken nor can he leave the chicken unattended with grain. While the problem sounds easy, the class quickly realized that there was more to the story than originally thought. Success was soon found and we now move on to fourth grade, where they too will try to determine how best to get everything across the river. It is hoped that logic problems will become a monthly experience for many students in the Bowie Library, an experience that will help them grow as learners.

Reading Under the Stars



Lisa Howell - Crockett Library

Crockett's annual Literacy Night was a huge success! The night was themed "Reading Under the Stars". Students and parents flocked to the school to learn more about reading and literacy. The families had a variety of stops to make that included the classroom, a book swap, the computer lab and the library. Inside the library the families found a guest reader that read books such as Pigsty, Fancy Nancy and Dear Mrs. Larue: Letters from Obedience School. After listening to the stories, the families retired to the "pleasure reading" area. Here they found

tents, beanbags, and buckets of books to be shared. Some families spent over thirty minutes reading together! Other exciting events that have recently occurred in the library are Bluebonnet Voting and the Six Flags Reading Club kick off! Mrs. Hall's fourth grade girls are coming to the library during their lunch for our new book club. We are reading *Double Identity*, one of last year's Bluebonnet nominees. All of these fun events continue to prove that reading for fun is the only way to go!!

Where Does This Book Belong?

Melissa Forsythe - Dickinson Library

After the winter break, second grade students at Dickinson begin to learn to shelve their own library books. Students are already familiar with fiction, easy, and non-fiction book categories, but we begin to look at spine labels and talk about what they really mean. After our discussion and as we are learning, students check-in their books and then take a seat at a table. Each table divides their books into stacks of easy, fiction, and non-fiction books. Students then take one book from the easy stack, and with the help of the librarian and their teacher, they go and shelve the books. We repeat this until all the easy books are shelved. Then we repeat the process for the fiction and non-fiction books until all are shelved. We continue this method for a couple of weeks, and then the students begin shelving on their own. When third, fourth, and fifth grade students come back in the fall, we do a little refresher course during our library orientation. This works very well as far as shelving books, and it also gives the students the opportunity to understand how the library is organized.

Lights Out in the Library

Karen McPherson - Fannin Library

Armed with eight twin-sized sheets and a basket of Dollar Tree flashlights, Fannin students got to experience the fun of reading in the dark. Everyone from Pre-K to 5th grade

crawled under a table with a flashlight and “read”. The reading might have translated into “reading the pictures” or actually losing themselves in a novel, magazine or their favorite non-fiction selection. To get things rolling and introduce what was about to happen, I related how I used to build tents in my house with blankets, chairs and couch cushions. Then I would read for what seemed like hours. After that, flashlights were distributed, lights went out, and serious reading began. What was really interesting was watching some of the struggling readers reading with greater fluency while tracking the text with their lights. I later discovered that there are studies that attest to this. Flashlight reading is a novel way to get kids to practice reading. It also seems to “cement” skills and strategies used by good readers. So kick back, crawl under the covers with your favorite book and click on your light; it does a brain good!

Winter Wonderland

Michelle Casey - Garcia Elementary

The Garcia Library has been a wonderland of wintry books for our pre-kindergarten to first grade students. They have had a lot of fun learning about the winter season through fiction and non-fiction text. We also appreciate Mother Nature helping us out with our lessons by modeling freezing cold weather and “show-n-telling” us about ice. The students seemed to enjoy *The Tale of Jack Frost* by Marcia Thornton Jones and *There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow* by Lucille Colandro, the best.



Our awesome second grade went even further by learning the moon’s part in how our seasons come to be. They are in the process of turning their research into presentations they will perform during Family Literacy Night. We spent time together brainstorming and charting how to present information in

interesting ways. I think Garcia’s second graders now understand that the way in which information is given is almost as important as the facts themselves.

A Typical Day in a Library

Marcie Eckhout - Houston Library

What does a typical day in a library look like? Well, at Sam Houston Elementary School it looks like a busy beehive. Kindergarten students accessing web sites to help improve their developing reading skills, pre-kindergarten students participating in a story time, while upper grade students check in library books they have finished reading and browse the shelves for new treasures. Houston Hornet parents can also be found visiting the library with their younger children looking for great books to share with their families at home.

Students use library books to read just for the fun of it at school and at home. Third, fourth and fifth grade students have been reading this year’s Bluebonnet nominated books and are looking forward to seeing which one wins this year’s top pick. We all hope our favorite book wins. Many of our students have chosen to participate in the Pizza Hut Book It! reading program for free pizzas along with reading 360 minutes to earn a one-day ticket to a Six Flags theme park through the Six Flags Read to Succeed reading program. Houston Hornets know the more you read for fun the smarter your brain becomes.

We invite everyone in GPISD to drop by and join in all of the reading and learning activities that are going on each and every day in our library. Come join our busy beehive.

“Take Me Out to the Ball Game!”

A.J. Tickell - Marshall Library

Marshall Elementary Mustangs are cheering for the South Grand Prairie High Warriors!! The Mustangs have teamed up with the Warrior Baseball Team to promote reading, sports and good character for what is called

the Reading-Baseball Initiative or RBI. During the month of January on select Tuesdays and Fridays, a few lucky SGP Baseball players were chosen to come and read to the Marshall students.

The SGP players wore their uniforms and exemplified good character, which promoted the value of being a student athlete



and the importance of reading for enjoyment as well as academics. The Marshall students were excited to meet them and had many questions about the game and what it was like to be able to play for the high school. Since their visits the number of requests for baseball books and other sports has increased along with requests for biography books on famous players. It has been wonderful to see the Marshall students seeking out their interests!

We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the players and can't wait to cheer them on during baseball season! Hope to see you in the stands!

Students Get "Moore" Voice in Book Selections

Linda Dragg - Moore Library

A "first" took place at Moore Elementary library! Students in second through fifth grades participated in a library reading survey. They answered questions related to reading habits, likes, dislikes, favorite authors, favorite series, and favorite genres. They were excited to be able to express their opinions and preferences. The top rated series were Magic Tree House, Junie B. Jones, Mostly Ghostly/Goosebumps, Scooby Doo, Spiderman, and Dr. Seuss books. Students would also like to have more mystery, adventure, holiday, and funny stories. In the biography category, students would like to have more books about heroes, actors, sports figures, explorers, and adventurers. It's all about getting student to read, so the students' requests will be reflected

in books that are added to our collection this year. Can't wait to see their faces light up when more of their favorite types of books reach our shelves! Speaking of getting students to read, our Six Flags Six Hour Reading program has just kicked off. We're doing our best to "Read to Succeed" at Moore!

It's all in the wrist!

Denise Wallace – Powell Library

Whether wiggling a computer mouse or writing with a pencil, Palominos are continually being exposed to writing and research in the library. Research can be such a daunting concept to many young students that instructors are always searching for ways to introduce this skill through print and online resources. Simplifying terminology helps students understand what is expected of them. For example, *“ONLINE **access points** provide you with different ways to search for information. The major points of ONLINE access are **keyword, subject, author and title....** In PRINT SOURCES, information is generally accessed from the **table of contents** or from **indexes** located in the back of books or journal volumes.”* (Taken directly from GPISD GALE Resource: WebFeet - http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/infocomp/modules/03_locate/)

To strengthen our parents' and students' database knowledge, I provided a “missing scientist database hunt” at our campus Science Fair Night. Armed with the district's “orange business cards”, instructing users on how to access online resources, all participants were able to retrieve and document factual and accurate information on a scientist of their choice. They were also reminded that these resources are available from their home or off-site computers as well.

So checkout your school's library website and take advantage of the many valuable resource links that are provided through your library!

Reading Night and Day

Evelyn Edington – Seguin Library

It is so exciting to see families reading together. Family Literacy Night was a huge success here at Seguin. About twenty of our parents signed their children up for public library cards, many checked out books from our library and still others sat and read together as a family. It was cold, but reading seems to make rooms feel cozy, or it could have been the enticing aroma coming from the first grade hall. Our first grade teachers served pancakes and hot chocolate while their students read pancake stories. One little boy said, “You are better cooks than the people at IHOP!” From reader’s theater to making books, lots of activities were happening and each child received a book to take home. What a fun reading night!

The fifth grade lunch bunch is reading *Atherton: The House of Power* by Patrick Carman and it is heating up these cold mornings. Heroes and villains, this book has it all. If you like books with twists, turns and secret codes, then this is the book for you. One of the students went to Barnes and Noble and bought the second book, *Rivers of Fire*. She is answering all of our questions. For more about *The House of Power* and others in the Atherton series try this site: http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/atherton_full/atherton/index.html.

Fourth Graders are researching famous Texans this month. They are creating timelines on Timeliner. This is a wonderful, quick way to graphically display data. Students from each class chose a famous Texan. They are meeting with other fourth graders that chose the same person. These students are creating a group project. We have designed a choice board for them so that each group can choose what type of project they would like to create. Many of the students have been so excited that they have been researching at home. This undertaking

took lots of collaboration and planning, but it has really been loads of fun for the students and the teachers. We are all learning about our Texas heritage.

The Things You Can Learn in the 'Brary

Lisa Miller - Whitt Library

While enjoying *Romeo and Juliet Together (and Alive!) at Last*, Whitt fifth graders were surprised to find that even the blockbuster *Twilight* has the same theme. Everything old is new again!

In Mandarin Chinese, “Kuai zi” (KHUY-zzuh) means “quick ones”. In the pidgin English used by Chinese and European traders of old, “chop” meant “quick”. Thus, “quick sticks” became “chopsticks.” Ask the first grade Stallions how to use “Kuai zi” to eat such things as cheese balls, corn, and sunflower seeds. Chinese New Year began on January 26th, and our first graders enjoyed stories and activities about chopsticks and fortune cookies. Happy Year of Ox.

Lions and tigers and bears, OH MY! Well, not quite, but the library did host tarantulas and lizards and bugs, oh boy! The Heath Scientific Fair was set up in the 'brary for a week, so while you browsed for books you could also take a peek at creatures and science activities and tools. We’re trying to grow some strong scientists here at Whitt.

Looking forward....The Stallions are busy earning those Six Hours for Six Flags tickets; we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of some new books (always an exciting event!); there are multiple book clubs in the works. Reading is FUNDamental.

Panthers Explore Digital Art with Web 2.0

Beverly Harkness - Adams Library

Web 2.0 is alive and well at Adams Middle School. This was proven during a recent visit to the library by art classes. After Mrs. Shipley taught a unit on animation and cartooning, she brought her art classes to the

library to explore the digital side of art by using some new Web 2.0 tools. Mrs. Harkness shared some new sites with the Panthers. First, students started the period off by going to www.otaku.com to create a one dimensional avatar. Crazy hairstyles and outlandish clothing was the norm for most avatars. Then students accessed www.Voki.com and created an animated avatar that could speak in several different languages. Every student was focused and on task because they were having so much fun while showing off their creative skills. On day two, Mrs. Shipley talked to her students about Picasso and his work. Then she showed her students a site titled Mr. Picasso Head (www.mrpicassohead.com). Students were able to share their artistic abilities by creating a self portrait with a limited number of shapes. Mrs. Harkness was amazed at the hidden talent that resides at Adams Middle School. Some samples of the end products can be found on Mrs. Shipley's page of the Adams Middle School website.

Do you Shelfari?

Katie Sessler - Jackson Library

Do you have any idea what we're talking about? Shelfari is a website for readers (<http://www.shelfari.com>) and a way to suggest books, discuss them and see what your friends are reading. Shelfari users build virtual bookshelves of the book titles they have read, and they can rate, review, and discuss their books. Mr. Lackey, a 7th grade ELA teacher and his classes, learned about Shelfari almost as an afterthought when they spent a day in the library learning about Gale databases and the internet links on the Jackson website. They took it one step further and went to the computer lab and joined the Shelfari group of readers. They are adding the books they've read to their personal shelves. Mr. Lackey created a readers' group of all his classes, and students (and teachers) use this site to talk about what they're reading, what they plan to read and what they like. It's also fun to create your

own avatar (www.voki.com) and use that as your photo. Join us and become our Shelfari friend so we can share our love of books with you!



Research Encounters

Barbara McCaffrey - Lee Library

After her recent absence, Mrs. McCaffrey is happy to be back working with Lee's students. Many thanks to Renee Gentry, the sub, who ably filled in.

During first semester, Lee students have honed their ability to access, retrieve, and evaluate information (online catalog, online encyclopedias, Gale Databases, World Wide Web, as well as various print reference sources.) These activities were designed to help students with the basic skills of information use and prepare them to advance to more creative and critical skills in thinking. Kudos is extended to teachers who completed mini research projects and reference queries. These include Mrs. White, Mrs. King, Mrs. Lara, Mrs. Duncan, Ms. Gyer, Ms. Holmblad, Mrs. Bishop, Mrs. Porter, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Lehnis.

After investigating library materials, Mrs. White's and Mrs. King's students created posters identifying a country, holidays (Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, Christmas), and holiday customs. Some students brought in food, heirlooms or other items related to the country and celebrations. Findings representing countries the world over were presented orally.

In an effort to better understand the setting and background for *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, Ms. Gyer's classes delved into the Victorian Era using an array of library resources. Students created PowerPoint presentations to showcase their

learning, which were shared in class and evaluated by the student presenting, the audience, and the teacher. Ms. Gyer said, "The students had fun with the project because they were in charge of their own learning. They were able to expand on things they found interesting and share them with their peers. The project was student-centered and so easy for me!"

This semester our emphasis will be on a more comprehensive research query employing the GPISD research process to complete research activities. One thing is for sure. In our information rich world, it is evident that the ability to gather and use information is as important as it once was to read and write.

Trojans Read, Research and Create

Linda Johnson – Truman Library

Well, the holiday season has just passed; everyone is enjoying the gifts they received, and the Truman library is no exception. Once again the library has been gifted with an extra \$4,000.00 to "beef up" the collection. We eagerly await our orders of new non-fiction and fiction titles. Special consideration was given to students who made requests for more anime titles from *Eyeshield 21*, *Dragon Drive* and *Dragon Sister*.

Ms. Kostyniak's English 1 class has been studying people and events of the Great Depression in preparation for their reading of Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. Once they completed their research, they searched for appropriate pictures to accompany their information and created trading cards that were then transferred to a flash drive and presented to the class for a major grade.

Mrs. Summers' advanced art class plans to participate in the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 2009 Annual Art Contest Competition**. In preparation, they have researched the styles of four prominent African American artists. Armed with their knowledge of a particular artist's style, the students will create their

own work done in the style of the artist they have chosen. Art work will be displayed in the foyer of the Ed Center during the month of February.

Using their knowledge of Flickr and Big Huge labs, Mrs. Raley's 6th and 7th grade ELA classes took time to create trading cards based on the nonfiction books they had read.

Cooking Up Traditions At Lamar DAEP

Cathy Nichols – Lamar Library

Prior to Thanksgiving, Mrs. Seelye - High School English - discussed the upcoming research topics with her classes. The students kept bringing the conversation back to their anticipation for the upcoming holidays. Mrs. Seelye asked each class, "What are some of the holiday traditions with your family?" A common theme revolved around special foods, and BAM! The English research project had a recipe all could warm up to.

Step 1 - Preheat to 350° – There was a class discussion and personal memory search to narrow choices down to one food and give each recipe entry a title. Mrs. Seelye worked diligently behind the scenes getting several GPISD departments involved; Mr. Rapier, Technology, English, Ed Center Staff, and secured all the necessary permissions so this project could move forward.

Step 2 – Gather the ingredients – Students logged computer lab time to search the web for images of their dish. www.foodnetwork.com, proved to be the one stop shop. When an image was found, they used a copy technique from the website to paste the images in the class Gaggle - site blog. (Gaggle is an educational blog site with filters for appropriate topics and language, and has been furnished by the school district).

Step 3 – Add ingredients in order - All good cooks know you have to follow the recipe. Students collected the list of ingredients, amounts of each, and mixing/cooking

directions, which they then added to the Gaggle blog. These were collected by use of home cookbooks or recipe boxes, family member memories, and use of the Food Network website.

Step 4 – Pour into dish and bake - Every tradition has a story behind it. Class discussion, family memories, and home research mixed well to create a story around each recipe. (My favorite part!) Each student’s story was then entered into the Gaggle blog. The dreaded research project had turned into holiday fun (and some key learning tools were developed).

Step 5 – Cool – Mrs. Seelye graded students on each step and proof read each blog entry when projects were completed. All students received high marks on this project. Now with a normal English research project this would have been the end of the story. However, Mrs. Seelye was so proud of the excellent job her students had done on the cookbook that, while grading Benchmark Tests at the Ed Center one afternoon, she bragged and expressed a wish that the full cookbook could be printed in color and a copy given to each of her students.

Step 6 – Enjoy!! - Wishes do come true Mrs. Seelye. Several GPISD personnel (Mrs. Priscila White, Mrs. Sharon Monterola, Mrs. Kathy McGinn, their assistants, the staff at the Resource Center and many more) lent their talents, time, expertise, and funding to deliver a magnificent 50-page, full-color cookbook to the High School English students before we dismissed for Christmas break. Tasks included adding a cover sheet, editing all images to increase pixels, printing and copying, and personal delivery to Lamar AEP. What a gift! Excitement was running high all afternoon in room 14 as students poured over the cookbook finding their recipe and reading their classmates’ entries.

Lamar Technology Teacher, Gerald Templin, who had added his expert assistance to the

finished project along the way, was very excited to see the completed, printed project. He commented on the level of student excitement, “The proof will be in the number of copies left at school at the end of the day.” Mrs. Seelye has reported that out of 125 cookbooks handed to students only one was left behind and none have been found stashed in corners!!! Moreover, students who may feel that they are more well-known for their failures, have been recognized for their success and hard work.....

Learning is FUNdamental across the prairie.

FRIENDS INDEED/COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Carmen Koshnoodi – GPHS Library

We are extremely excited to announce that Grand Prairie High School library will partner with the senior librarian, Christie Gibrich at the Bowles Life Center Branch Library to offer workshops/sessions for our high school students after school from 3 to 5 here at the GPHS library. You can visit the Bowles Life Center Branch Library at <http://www.gptx.org/library>



Topics will include:

FAFSA / SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

February 24 & 27

March 3, 10 & 13

RESUME CREATION / INTERVIEW SKILLS PRACTICE

March 24, 27 & 31

April 7 & 14

If we think we will be able to offer more assistance, we will offer more dates and begin earlier next fall as well. We look forward to working with our community branch library to help our students.

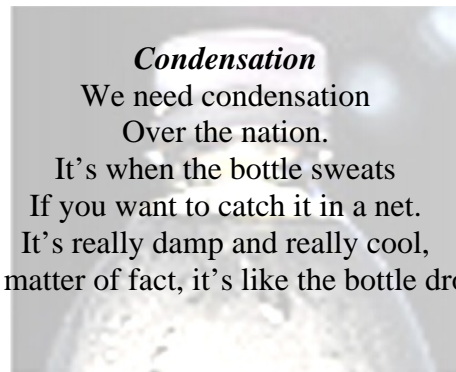
The Diversity of Poetry

Belinda Stanley - SGP9 Library

Most adults know the line, "Two roads diverged in a yellow wood..." taken from Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*. Many would recognize lines from poems by Edgar Allen Poe, Carl Sandburg, Emily Dickinson, or many other well-know poets. But English I students at SGP9th Grade Center have gone beyond the traditional American poets in their study of poetry. Poetry books such as *Cool Salsa* edited by Lori Carlson, *Ego-Tripping* and *Love Poems*, both by Nikki



Giovanni, *Here in Harlem* by Walter Dean Myers, and *Behind the Wheel* by Janet Wong are just samples of the wide variety of books students read during the past month. Students also composed their own poems, and many beautiful collections are on display in the library. Ms. Ortiz's English classes held a "Beatnik" Poetry Reading in the library, enjoying each others poems along with hot chocolate. Praise was given to all readers by means of snapping fingers. Ms. Sustaita's ESL classes combined poetry with technology by creating a Photo Story with pictures and sounds to express the poems they read. Each poem was taken from *This Place I Know: Poems of Comfort*, compiled by Georgia Heard. This analogy contains poems the author gathered to offer comfort to the school children of New York after the Sept. 11 attacks. Ms. Sustaita's students set the mood with a different picture for each line with the emotion derived from that line. Background music was added to further enhance the Poetry Photo Story. To make poetry even more relevant and cross-curricular, Ms. Halsey's IPC classes composed poems using science words. This is one of those Science Poems, written by student Derek King:



Cayusa. "The heat of the day." 9 September, 2008. Flickr. 20 January 2009. <<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cayusa/2844764362/>>

**ROSS THE
READER
RECOMMENDS**



DEWEY: THE SMALL-TOWN LIBRARY CAT WHO TOUCHED THE WORLD by Vicki Myron with Bret Witter

This book is appropriate for grades 8 - 12 and adults

Dewey, The Small-Town Cat Who Touched the World is a sweet and easy read about a public library that adopts a kitten that they found in their book return drop box in mid-winter. Barely alive, this little yellow tabby kitten captures the hearts of everyone he meets and becomes an integral part of the library for the next nineteen years. While this book is primarily about Dewey, the reader is also given a unique look at the history behind the farm crisis and its effect upon the Midwest town of Spencer, Iowa and its people. The book is also about the librarian's struggle and eventual success at making the library an important hub for the town, its people, and for its economy, plus Myron explains the role that Dewey played in their eventual success. It was a fascinating look at the differences and yet similarities that exist in a public library versus a school library. I highly recommend it - and yes, the cat is a cute thing. It is really amazing how this cat pulled the town and its people together and increased circulation.

Reviewed by Christine Rayl@Bowie Elementary School