



INCREASING COMPREHENSION, ENGAGEMENT, AND TALK WHEN THINKING DEEPLY ABOUT THE CHARACTERS IN THE BOOKS WE READ

Grades K-3

October 30, 2007: Lakewood, NJ

Authors introduce us to the world of story by inviting us to come to know characters well and to experience their worlds right along side them. Looking closely at characters affords readers opportunities to do the kind of reading work required to comprehend on higher and higher levels and to come to define reading as an active, interactive and exciting process; one that can and should change how we live in the world. This workshop will explore ways to help kids think deeply about the characters in the books they read.

Items to be addressed will include:

- Developing units of study in character to promote higher levels of comprehension
- Explicit strategies for unlocking powerful talk in our classrooms, the kind of talk that helps young readers to develop strong opinions
- Techniques for developing comprehension in the Read Aloud
- Suggestions for modeling, explicit teaching, and a variety of purposeful ways we can guide students towards independence
- Ideas for conferring that help students read more interactively and with stronger meaning
- Planning more useful mini-lessons to help students articulate their thoughts and explore other's ideas



Virginia Lockwood is a former teacher who now consults and provides staff development in reading and writing instruction, curriculum development, and instructional leadership across the country. Ms. Lockwood, also works with the Reading and Writing Project at Columbia's Teachers College in New York City. Her literacy in-services provide an in-depth look at rigorous teaching and learning and include live or videotaped lessons with students, direct connections to classroom practice using student work, examination of standards, and time to plan for powerful classroom instruction. She is currently writing her first book for Heinemann Publishers.

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About the Presenter