

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF WRITING WITH OUR PRIMARY STUDENTS BY USING MENTOR TEXTS

Grades K-2



March 25, 2011 • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison, NJ

Items to be addressed will include:

- Gain knowledge about using mentor texts inside whole class instruction as well as individual conferences
- Learn titles of mentor texts that can be used in their primary classroom to scaffold student work
- Discover the power of utilizing teacher writing, mentor texts and student examples as ways to help raise the quality of good writing
- Gain a deeper understanding of how to study and talk about the craft of writing with your students so that they can imagine and envision possibilities for their own writing

A Message From Colleen:

Dear Colleagues,

I don't know about you but teaching alone was no fun for me. I loved having a student teacher and/or co-teacher in my classroom. I needed to teach alongside someone. I needed to tap into other professionals who are teaching kids as well. It is for this reason that I attached myself and my students to mentor authors and texts when teaching writing. We were never alone again. Mentor authors helped me teach students the craft of writing. My students wanted to be like these authors. They wanted to emulate their work and grow as writers. Mentor texts helped me and my students continually revisit our writing and make it better. I will be forever grateful to authors such as Ralph Fletcher, Cynthia Rylant, Mem Fox, Donald Crews, and many more authors who my students wrote alongside of and borrowed ideas from during writing workshop.

During our time together I will help you to gain a deeper understanding of how to study and talk about the craft of writing with your students. I will help you to imagine and envision possibilities for your own writing as well as your students. I will demonstrate lessons using mentor texts and share quality literature to use inside your writing workshop.

I look forward to sharing ideas with you on how to raise the level of your student writing.

Fondly,

Colleen Doogan

Colleen Doogan is a literacy consultant who over the past sixteen years has worked with administrators, reading specialists, teachers, and students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade in the areas of both reading and writing. Colleen began her teaching career as a first grade teacher and after realizing her passion for reading and writing, she left the classroom to become a reading specialist in a suburban school district in NJ. She then went on to work as a staff developer at the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University under the leadership of Lucy Calkins. As a member of the Reading and Writing Project team of staff developers, Colleen lead many instructional leadership groups, taught at the summer reading and writing institutes, led coaching courses for literacy coaches from the many different regions in NYC, presented numerous calendar day workshops on a variety of topics and also assisted Lucy Calkins in teaching Literacy Instruction in the Elementary Classroom at Teachers College and provided instruction on teaching reading and writing workshops in school districts nationwide. Colleen had the opportunity to present with Lucy Calkins and other colleagues from the Project at NCTE during the past few years. Colleen is an avid reader and writer herself and speaks from many personal and professional experiences when she is working with both children and teachers. Colleen is now working as an independent literacy consultant in many schools throughout the state of NJ, while at the same time enjoying time with her three small children at home. "The perfect combo" she calls it!

COLLEEN DOOGAN

REGISTER 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE FOR SPECIAL RATE:

\$100 per person (for teachers)

Supervisors/administrators can attend free of charge
(must register 4 weeks in advance)

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About the Presenter