



A New Spotlight on the Lindberghs

As I reread the Anne Morrow Lindbergh book 'Gift from the Sea', I found myself intrigued by just what made Anne want to write. I discovered that it was not a 'want', but a need. I feel that way about reading. As I thought about this, I wondered, 'How many kids in our school have a *need* to write? Do any staff members have that *need* too?' So an idea started brewing, and finally hatched.

During the last school year, our Little Falls district schools were offered the opportunity to help celebrate Charles Lindbergh's 100th birthday and the 75th anniversary of his famous flight, by focusing on a variety of character traits as they pertained to Charles Lindbergh and his life- as well as our own lives. This school year our focus will be a celebration of Anne Morrow Lindbergh's life and her works. Each month, beginning in October, I will offer information about Anne Morrow Lindbergh, as well as ideas for teachers to use that could help integrate writing into all curriculum areas. The ideas are meant to be simple, and could adapt to any grade level or subject area.

Anne was a very talented writer and intriguing person. There are so many things that we can learn from her. Her writing and the life she lived are truly a treasure trove of lessons for all of us to cherish.

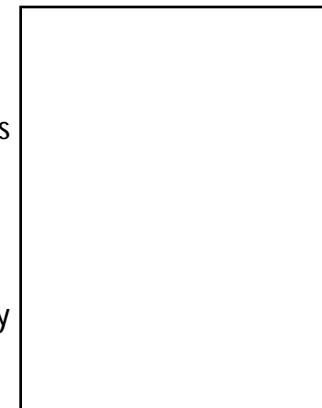
Suggestions and ideas are welcome. I will site all sources that I use.

Ideas can be sent to:

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Anne Morrow Lindbergh

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

1906-2001

"I began these pages for myself, in order to think out my own particular pattern of living, my own individual balance of life, work and human relationships. And since I think best with a pencil in my hand, I started naturally to write." AML, Gift from the Sea

Early years:

Born on June 22, 1906, in Englewood New Jersey, to Dwight Morrow and Elizabeth Cutter Morrow, Anne was the middle daughter of four children. Anne's mother was a poet and women's education advocate, her father a businessman, U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, and later, a U.S. Senator. Anne's early schooling was in Manhattan, and she later attended Smith College, where she graduated with a BA in 1928. Anne won two literary prizes prior to her graduation. Her first published poem appeared in *Scribners Magazine*, that same year.

Anne met Charles Lindbergh during her Christmas break in 1927, after he accepted an invitation by her father to visit Mexico City. This was after his famous transatlantic flight. Charles didn't call Anne for a date until the fall of 1928-- this was actually the first time he had ever called a girl for a date!

Charles and Anne were married on May 27, 1929 in her parents' home in Englewood. The wedding was kept quiet, because the press' relentless coverage of Charles. They had a quiet honeymoon sailing to North Haven, Maine.

(Source: The Lindbergh Foundation)

Next Month: The Partnership of Anne & Charles.....

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Integrating Reading & Writing with Kids

We have a captive audience- our students and they love a good performance! Some of the best 'performances' come in the form of books. Kids love to be read to, and to create their own storybooks. All students can become authors.

Start by giving students the chance to see how books are created by using any of the following books:

- ◇ *How a Book is Made*- Alike
- ◇ *What Do Authors Do?*- Eileen Christelow
- ◇ *From Pictures to Words: A Book About Making a Book* by Janet Stevens (my personal favorite!)

Spark ideas and encourage your bookmakers by carefully choosing and displaying some of YOUR favorite readalouds. Encourage the kids to talk about what they find interesting, attractive, funny, etc.- What makes you want to pick this book up? Have the kids write a story, they will later illustrate it too.

Some easy story possibilities are:

- the day my parents made me eat something I hate...
- my first day of Kindergarten (high school students love to write about this!)
- I never thought that I would be able to...

++Have the kids keep a 'favorite book' list!++

Next, have the students try making a book. There are many wonderful sources for teachers to use to help make this very easy:

- ◇ *Multicultural Books to Make & Share* by Susan Kapuscunski
- ◇ *Pop-o-Mania: How to Create Your Own Pop-Ups* by Barbara Valenta

Websites:

- www.makingbooks.com
- <http://library.thinkquest.org/J001156/makingbooks/makeown.htm>

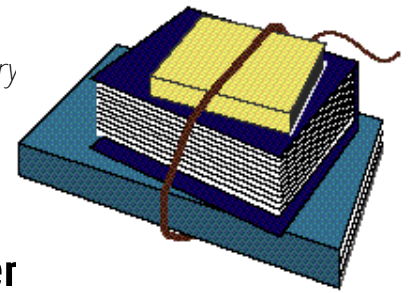
Source: *Copycat Magazine*, Nov/Dec 2002

**November 1st is
"Authors' Day"!**

Journals and Poetry

Start to journal, now. Keep track of what happens in your daily life. Know that every day is a gift, even if you think that others will find it boring, write it down- think of it as 'life poetry'. This poetry is for you, the writer. It conveys your feelings, thoughts, fears, likes, dislikes, habits, and habitat. You will learn about the most important person in your life- you. Journal ideas for you-- and your students. Write about:

- the season, a holiday
- nature, weather
- your hobby
- a favorite book, or one you didn't like
- your job
- your parents
- someone who influenced your life- good or bad
- your happiest/ saddest moments
- a pet
- a fear
- a love
- life choices
- reflection on poetry
- 1000 other ideas!



Writer

Have you ever given much thought to writing for kids? There are a number of wonderful sources that are available to help you. These are a few good Internet sites:

- <http://usawrites4kids.drury.edu/>
- <http://www.write4kids.com/>
- <http://www.writingconference.com/>
- <http://www.writersdigest.com/>
- <http://www.shawguides.com/writing/>

When I asked my friend, author Kate DiCamillo, ('Because of Winn-Dixie') how someone could get started writing for children, she suggested:

- "1. Get a copy of the Children's Writers Market. It lists all the publishers and what they are looking for.
- 2. Join SCBWI (the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (a national organization), or join the Children's Literature Network (a local organization, very wonderful). You can find both online. This will give you a community and a chance to meet editors.
- 3. Can you find a writer's group to join? This helps a lot."

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