



BoulderReads! Winter Tutor Tips & Tidbits

A program of the Boulder Public Library

Winter Issue 2009

Tutor Topic: Vocabulary Development

What is Vocabulary?

The Partnership for Reading web page defines oral vocabulary as the words we can use and understand in speaking, listening and reading vocabulary as the store of words we recognize and understand in print.

<http://www.nifl.gov/gov/partnersrshipforreading/explore/vocabulary.html>

Sounds simple for proficient readers, but for your adult learners it also is about the depth of knowledge and understanding of a word and all its potential meanings and applications in oral and printed language. Instruction will be complicated by your learners' educational backgrounds as many words have meanings that are not applicable to their everyday life, but come from a more academic arena.

(Continued on page 2)

Discoveries Writing Workshop

Discoveries submissions are due on January 20, 2010. As a special opportunity for your student, Eleanor and Carolyn will hold an open **writing workshop** on:

**December 12,
2009, 10:00-2:00.**

Please encourage your student to join us for this one-on-one pre-writing, writing or editing help for *Discoveries* or any other piece of writing interest.

BoulderReads!

Events

Book Club

BoulderReads! has chosen Birchbark House as its next book club book. Please join us for this discussion group in the BoulderReads! Computer Lab on January 16th at 10:30. Check out the author's website for this book:

www.carolhurst.com/titles/birchbarkhouse.html



*BoulderReads!
News (continued)*

A GED Workshop was held on October 15th in the BoulderReads! Computer Lab, GED instructor, Sharon Hagan conducted an inspiring and informative tutor workshop. Sharon presented the tutors with specific assessments and instructional materials that are used in the GED classes. Tutors, whose students are GED candidates, learned how to apply these materials to reinforce the skills needed for their students to pass these tests.

Nice work, Sharon!

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Vocabulary Development Continued

Why is Vocabulary Important?

Vocabulary is vital to reading comprehension in at least two ways. Oral vocabulary is the first key connection. When learning to read, an adult learns to connect printed words with his/her oral vocabulary. The second link between vocabulary and reading is an obvious one for learners at all levels: readers can't understand a writer's message unless they understand the meaning of the words in the text. As developing readers begin to read materials in varied subject matter areas, they often encounter words that are not in their oral vocabulary. Best practices in reading instruction supports the need to build vocabulary to allow readers to comprehend a variety of materials.

"Explicit vocabulary instruction is necessary to enable adults to read material related to their educational, vocational and family goals."

This information is cited from, *Applying Research in Reading Instruction for Adults*. Copies of this article will be available in the Computer Lab as a tutor resource.

Tutor manual contains some specific strategies in vocabulary development. BoulderReads! has many copies of *Tutor* available to checkout, or contact Carolyn for other vocabulary development resources. marinoc@boulderlibrary.org

Congratulations to Tutor

Gina Martin-Smith who will be recognized as Volunteer of the Week by Volunteer Connections! Look for this feature article in the *Daily*

Tell me...I forget

Show me...I remember

Involve me...I understand

~Ancient Proverb



Websites of the month

<http://www.freerice.com/>

This site is a great site for vocabulary development. Students who use this site also help feed the hungry through the partnership with the World Food Programme.



www.newsforyouonline.com

is available each week with access of a password.

Email Carolyn or Laurie for the weekly password. This site provides extra interactive features as it includes audio and well as a video interface.

We also have the regular edition of *News For You* delivered to the computer lab weekly for reference use.



Staff Training

*The BoulderReads! staff attended the Colorado Adult Education Professional Association's Rendezvous Conference on August 5, 6th and 7th. Some of the sessions' highlights were: **Teaching Learners with Special Needs, Multicultural and Cross-Cultural Communication Strategies and Resources and Writing for the World-Blogging.***

Please see Carolyn if interested in any of these handouts from these sessions.

The staff at BoulderReads! extends a heartfelt wish for a happy and peaceful holiday season to all of you. We are truly grateful for your commitment on behalf of your students! Diana, Eleanor, Laurie and Carolyn

Stay



tuned for a new look in the Computer Lab.

Laurie, Carolyn and Eleanor are busily brainstorming a new look with both student and tutor resources in the computer lab. We will be adding some literacy training books published for teachers and may be spotlighting certain components of reading instruction. Feel free to give us your ideas and thoughts on our new design

