

**Teacher:** Joan B. Staton  
**Grade Level:** Five  
**Subject:** Language Arts

## **Buckingham County Public Schools**

### **Virginia Standards of Learning**

This lesson plan incorporates the Language Arts/Reading area of the SOL'S with the Writing area of the SOL's. It also requires the use of the Internet, which incorporates the Computer/Technology Standards.

Reading/Literature SOL: 5.5, 5.6

Writing SOL: 5.7

Computer/Technology SOL's: C/T5.3 and C/T5.4

### **Objective(s):**

The student will:

- a. read a fiction book of their choice.
- b. write a brief summary/review of the fiction book.
- c. revise, edit, and proofread their summary/review for accuracy.
- d. use the Internet to read book reviews of other students around the world.
- e. publish a book review on the Internet site: *World of Reading*.

### **Introduction/Overview:**

The student will read a fiction book of their choice, with teacher approval, and write a brief review of the book. The student will also read a variety of book reviews that have been published on the Internet site, *World of Reading*. The final outcome of this activity is for each child to publish their book review on this site. The published book review on the web will need parental permission. A sample letter for parental permission is linked to this lesson plan. This letter will also need approval from the building administrator.

### **Preparation:**

**Group size:** Whole class (approximately 25 students)

**Time:** Approximately three weeks

**Setting:** Classroom and home for the individual reading of the novel.  
Computer lab with access to the Internet.

**Materials:** Novels matching the appropriate reading level of students  
Computers hooked to the Internet  
Paper and pencils, or a word processor  
Book Review template from the *World of Reading* site  
Parental permission letter signed by parents agreeing for the student to publish a book review on the Internet.  
Acceptable Use Policy signed, granting permission for student to access and use the Internet.

## **Instructional Strategies:**

### *Pre-Activities: Teacher Preparation*

1. Prior to allowing students to access the Internet, be sure to have parental permission of the Acceptable Use Policy for your school division.
2. Also, prior to sending a book review on-line, be sure to have parental permission. (See link for sample) Type your letter (or use sample), secure administrator's approval, and have copies ready to send home before beginning the project.
3. Schedule time in the school library for students to go check out a novel of interest to them. (Be prepared to offer suggestions of novels for students to check out.)
4. Print a copy of the book review template from the Internet site: *World of Reading* to share with the students. Be sure to site reference.
5. Make sure computers are on-line with telecommunication systems.
6. Access the *World of Reading* website:  
<http://www.worldreading.org/about.html>  
Review the site and read the interview of Mary Timmons, the Director of the *World of Reading* site. She provides a Mission Statement; Policy Statement; and a statement on Classroom Use.
7. Be prepared to demonstrate to students how to use this site; as well as how to submit a book review to this site.

### *Activities:*

#### **First Day:**

1. Explain to the students that they will be doing the following activities:
  - a. visit the library to select a fiction novel to read. (teacher approval required)
  - b. write a short book review on this novel after reading it
  - c. use the Internet to read book reviews submitted by other students from around the world
  - d. publish a book review on-line
2. Hand out the following materials to be signed, and explain that if they are not returned, the student will not be allowed to use the Internet for this project. Explain the other alternatives to them if the Internet is not used. (see "differentiation strategies" )
  - Acceptable Use Policy for your division.
  - Parent letter asking for permission to publish a book review on-line
3. Take students to the library.
4. Students choose a fiction book, and teacher approves it.
5. Return to classroom.
6. Allow time for questions from students.

7. Review the project again, and assign homework:
  - Get necessary forms signed. Bring back next day.
  - Begin reading your novel.

### **Second Day:**

1. Collect the signed permission forms from students.
2. Document those returned.
3. Remind students to return them tomorrow if they did not bring them today.
4. Tell students to continue reading their novel for homework.
5. Announce that tomorrow they will be going to the Computer Lab to read on-line book reviews of other students by accessing the Internet.
6. Explain that if forms are not returned granting permission, they will not be able to access the Internet.

### **Third Day:**

1. Collect signed permission forms, if any.
2. Take those to the Computer lab that have permission to get on-line. (For those students that do not have permission to get on-line, they may go to the lab with the class, but will be given an alternative assignment by the teacher.)
3. Log in on the computer.
4. Type in the URL address to this web site:  
<http://www.worldreading.org/>
5. Click on “About This Site”.
6. Read the interview with the Director of this site, *World of Reading*.
7. Reinforce with students the importance of the information provided here by the Director. (for example: all work submitted is reviewed for appropriateness; work needs to be proofread and edited for errors; and adult supervision is required (the teacher in this case)
8. Return to *World of Reading* homepage by clicking on the “BACK” button.
9. Click on “Kid Locations”.
10. Explain this page to the students by telling them they can select a country or region of the world to review book summaries written by other kids of the country or region they select.
11. Teacher should select one country or region, and take the students through a book review as an example.
12. Complete example above, and then return to *World of Reading* home page.
13. Exit the program.
14. Log off the Internet.
15. Shut down computer.
16. Review today’s lesson.
17. Allow time for questions from students.
18. Answer questions.
19. Tell students to continue reading their novel as homework.
20. Return to classroom.

#### **Fourth Day:**

1. Continue collecting any permission forms that may be coming in.
2. Go to Computer Lab.
3. Log in on the computer.
4. Connect to Internet.
5. Explain to students that they will access the *World of Reading* site today, and will explore other regions or countries of their choosing.
6. Students type in the address:  
<http://www.worldreading.org/>
7. Students pick and choose other books to review.
8. Teacher observes and monitors the students as they select and read on-line book reviews.
9. Offer assistance as needed.
10. Allow approximately 40 minutes for this activity.
11. Stop and log off after the allotted time has passed.
12. Log off.
13. Answer questions, and review today's session.
14. Return to classroom.
15. Tell students to continue reading their novel, and that tomorrow the format for publishing and submitting their book review will be discussed via Internet.

#### **Fifth Day:**

1. Continue accepting permission forms, if any.
2. Continue providing an alternative lesson for those that cannot use the Internet.
3. Review yesterday's lesson.
4. Go to Computer lab.
5. Log on to computer.
6. Connect to Internet.
7. Go to <http://www.worldreading.org/>
8. Teacher directs students to click on "Submit A Review".
9. Teacher explains the process of submitting a book review by guiding students through the pre-designed template on this page.
10. Students are not to submit one today, but are to become oriented with the form and the information needed.
11. Answer questions from students.
12. Return to *World of Reading* home page.
13. Students continue to select and read book reviews via the Internet.
14. Teacher monitors the students during their readings and assists if necessary.
15. At the end of the allotted time, have students log off and shut computers down.
16. Review today's lesson.
17. Return to classroom.
18. Give assignment: continue reading novel and begin a rough draft of your book review when you finish the novel.

### **Sixth Day:**

1. Answer any questions.
2. Review expectations of the end project.
3. Go to Computer lab.
4. Students continue to select and read book reviews done by other students from this site: <http://www.worldreading.org/>
5. Teacher continues to monitor and answer questions.

### **Seventh Day-To the End:**

1. Teacher determines when all students have completed the reading of their selected novel.
2. When students have finished their books, go to the lab to begin work on book reviews.
3. Students will then key in a rough draft of their book reviews using a template. (See link for sample.)
4. Teacher will monitor and assist the students as needed
5. When all book review drafts have been completed, the students are expected to follow the writing process steps of revising, editing, and proofreading their on-screen drafts. Students are to use the Spelling and Grammar tool provided with the word processor.
6. When this process has been completed, the students will submit their book reviews on the *World of Reading* site. A hard copy should be printed upon completion to be filed in the student's portfolio.

### **Last Day: Submitting Book Review on the Internet**

1. Go to Computer lab.
2. Log on.
3. Connect to the Internet.
4. Type in address: <http://www.worldreading.org/>
5. Click on "Submit A Review".
6. Begin filling in the form.
7. Teacher must assist in this process, as the teacher's name and e-mail address must be submitted. Also, the process of copying and pasting the previously keyed in book reviews from the word processor to the Internet site must be completed. (See link for help on copying and pasting.)
8. Students are to check with the teacher after they finish the process of copying and pasting their reviews into the required section of the form on the *World of Reading* site.
9. Teacher should read the review to be sure it is correct.
10. After checking the review, teacher allows the student to click "submit the review".
11. Student then logs off.

### **Assessment Strategies:**

- Visual: The student views on-line book reviews by other students.  
The student will view their on-line book review.
- Oral: The student will share opinions of the on-line book reviews with the class.
- Kinesthetic: Demonstrate keyboarding skills.
- Written: Write an on-line book review.  
Demonstrate proper revision, editing, and proofreading skills.

### **Differentiation Strategies:**

#### *Alternative for those not able to access the Internet:*

These students will still be able to read a novel and write a review of their novel. They should use a word processor to type their review, and demonstrate the proper revision, editing, and proofreading skills. When the other students are reading the on-line book reviews, those not allowed to use the Internet could use this time to read book reviews of novels selected by the teacher from the Library.

#### *High-end learners:*

These students could keep a record of the titles of the books they reviewed. Use these titles to do a search on this site to scan each country's site to see how many students have read these same books. They could chart and rank the most popular book titles read by students all over the world. They could even create a graph using this information.

#### *Slower Learners:*

These students will require more teacher assistance throughout this activity. They may not be able to read as many book reviews as others may during the allotted time. It would be necessary for the teacher to be sure they have chosen a novel on their level for their individual reading assignment.

#### *Learners with Special Accommodations:*

The teacher should follow the IEP for individual differences if a child has a weakness in the area of Language Arts. It is also very important for the teacher to assist this child during this process. This child may need a partner to help them in the Computer Lab.

### **Extended Activity:**

The students should read their on-line book reviews once they have been posted. The students could also e-mail the director at the *World of Reading* site if they have an e-mail address at home, or they could use the teacher or school's e-mail address if possible.

The students could use this site in the future to read the book reviews, and use these reviews as a guide in helping them to choose books to read.

**Resources:**

Rosenzweig, Andy. Interview with Mary Timmons, Director of: World of Reading. [Online] Available <http://www.worldreading.org/about.html>, October 16, 1999.

Timmons, Mary P., Creator & Director. World of Reading. [Online] Available <http://www.worldreading.org/>, October 16, 1999.

Timmons, Mary P. Share a Book: Kid Locations. [Online] Available <http://www.worldreading.org/cgi-bin/php.cgi/kidlocations.phtml>, October 16, 1999.

Timmons, Mary P. Kinds of Books. [Online] Available <http://www.worldreading.org/cgi-bin/php.cgi/share.phtml>, October 16, 1999.

Timmons, Mary P. Share a Book – Send a Review. [Online] Available <http://www.worldreading.org/cgi-bin/php.cgi/submit.phtml>, October 16, 1999.