



16th Home/School Connection January 24, 2013

There are 8 topics. Write at least 4 question bullets.
Write questions that will lead to interesting conversations.

- PERSPECTIVE: This week, you got up on your desk and down on the ground. as you considered how different perspectives affect what you (and your animal) might see and experience based on physical traits and *the environment*. You then had to write paragraphs showing what your animal thinks about as it moves through its habitat. I was impressed with how vivid and detailed your responses were. You have learned a lot about your animal and your research is showing up in your writing.
 - What did you learn or think about after having focused on looking at the world from different perspectives?
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- PLOTS AND PROBLEMS: Along with learning about the setting of your story, we are now focusing on the plot and how *the main problems and the traits* of your characters *drive the plot*. Think about stories you and your parents know. For example, start with a story like *the Three Little Pigs* or other stories you are both familiar with. Discuss the problems and character traits of one or more of the characters and show how they *affect the plot*.
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- CAN YOU TEACH PEOPLE TO CARE? The Harvard students who visited our class asked me that question. I told them I believe you can. On Friday, I am asking you to think about it too and write down your ideas. If you are doing this on Friday or after, please explain your ideas. *How* did Martin Luther King get people to join together and care, even if they were not being hurt? Ask your parents if they can tell you a time when they reached out and tried to make a difference and what it was that motivated them to do this or if they ever had someone reach out to them? Do you think it is possible to teach people to care? Are leaders teachers?
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LOSTMAN'S RIVER: You made it through a grim part of the story – fortunately there was a little silver lining before Ty left the rookery. You had to write a letter to Ty letting him know whether or not you think it was or was not his fault for what happened at the rookery. Explain to your parents what happened and discuss what you would have done if you were in Ty's shoes. Discuss how the problems the characters have in this story affect the plot.

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SUBTRACTION DIVISION: One of the ways to do long division is repeated subtraction division. I (Ms. S) like it best for larger numbers with two digit divisors. Explain the process to a parent. Show some samples or ask for a long division problem and solve it using repeated subtraction.

○ Talk about what is good about it or what type of division you most like to do.

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BIRDS: What types of birds have you seen lately? Do you worry about them in the cold? We will put the suet out for them now that we have the proper containers. How do you think we can stop the squirrels? Do you look at birds differently now that you have designed your own?

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SPECIALS: What's going on in music, art, P.E., C.O.B., Chinese, computer lab, and library? What did you talk about? _____

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ANYTHING ELSE? "One Today" Inaugural poem (on website), *Time For Kids* and the Cheetah, TFK poetry contest, River Table, Out of the Box Arts Equinox T-Shirt contest, Morning Meeting, MLK Assembly (on Friday)... what did you talk about? _____

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Due: MONDAY. We made a time to do the HSC on _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Comments:

Student Rating: 1-5. Please say why.