

# *I am* **FREEDOM** *to be a Writer*

*Midlands Writing Project  
Class Log for June 28, 2006  
(Janie's Birthday)*

*By Mary Jo Lounsberry & Sandra Pound*

*\*Class Log of June 27: Ed Bowling & Jennifer Johnson - Very entertaining presentation*

*\*Writing Prompt: Sandy Pirkle - Wedding music, tears & laughter, memorable writing*

*\*Focus Lesson: Janie Goodman - Creating Publishing Possibilities for Students*

*"Choose a text you like and trust." "Co-teaching with authors." "How to present information instead of just reports." "Structure mini lessons to teach new craft." "It is our job to teach publishing possibilities." Intentional book buying. "The question is, 'How can I use this text to teach writing?'"*

*\*Workshop: Kitty Spires - Cambourne's Conditions for Learning, The Writer's Workshop, and The Ubiquitous Comma (+Pimento Cheese Recipe)*

*"Green pens." "Give them something to strive for." "Variety of text." "Demonstrate the craft of writing by creating an actual piece." How to remember to use that doggone comma: seeing punctuation to make it work (visuals).*

*\*Read Alouds: Elizabeth Holmes - The Long, Long Letter (writing up a storm)*

*Suggested text: The Phantom Tollbooth*

*Dee Matthews - Excerpt from My Losing Season (influence of great teacher)*

*Suggested text: Oh, The Places You'll Go*

*\*Workshop: Lori Benfield - Building a Community for Writing: Safety, Communication and Shared Experiences "Feed your writers." "Explicit teaching and modeling." "Cat food is class history."*

*Odd Velvet, Lasting Impressions, John Henry (monkey pictures)*

*\*U C Berkeley Sparked the  
1960's FREE SPEECH  
Movement*

Class Log for Wednesday, June 28, 2006: Quotes and Remembrances Shared

- ★ One of the things that struck me about yesterday -- *Critical Incident* in teaching where you don't know someone has made a turn--a new edge. Vic Oglan
- ★ Heart to Page Connection- Know it. Live it. Listening as writers. Vic Oglan
- ★ When you live it, you own it, and when you own it, you can share it. Vic Oglan
- ★ You can't teach a writer until you know the person. Tim Bunch
- ★ The mortar in the brick--- we are solid now. Carol Jackson
- ★ Let the classroom community take you to places where you can't imagine you will go. Vic Oglan
- ★ Create a *community where everyone has a voice and that voice is valued*. Vic Oglan
- ★ There is no answer. There will never be an answer. That is the answer. Gertrude Stein
- ★ Move from one truth, one answer to multiple truths, multiple answers. Multiple Paradigms. Vic Oglan
- ★ "The water can be a mirror or a window. Look at it and all you'll see is a reflection of the sky. Look *through* it and you'll see what's below the surface." (*The Missing Manatee*, Cynthia DeFelice, pg. 84) Jane Goodman
- ★ Be careful when you buy plastic sleeves to save transparencies in; make sure that they are see through. Jane Goodman
- ★ Touchstone Text- using authors to help you teach. Jane Goodman from Katie Woods Ray
- ★ Writing is only individualized, not plagiarism. Jane Goodman
- ★ Write down what kids say and give it back to them. Vic Oglan
- ★ Expectation: Give them (students) something to strive for. Kitty Spires
- ★ "Dying's not so important. Everyone dies. It's the living that counts." Lori Benfield from *John Henry*
- ★ "It takes so little to turn a student into a writer: a human connection, teacher modeling, supportive conversations before writing begins, an appreciation of the students efforts, sincere affirmation, real writing for a purpose and a reader that the student values."  
*Writing Essentials*, Regie Routmann



Class Log for June 28, 2006  
Vic Oglan

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LIBERATION