

San Antonio Writer's Project

Thursday June 7, 2007 *Day 4*

Daily Log- J.L.K.

Journal and Sharing Time

Lennie shared his observations of Maria Kaylor's digital storytelling presentation. Nancy wrote about the low student expectations that she has witnessed in many classrooms, and her wish to get through to teachers whose classroom practices let children off the hook.

Our First Demonstration!

By Jennifer Hall

Jennifer teaches 7th grade Language Arts at the Krueger School of Applied Technology in the North East School District. Her presentation, entitled "Interactive Novella Project," demonstrated the wide range of possibilities afforded teachers and students in an online forum.

She used her interactive forum to:

- **A**ssign tasks related to the novella project.
- **P**rovide students with a place to post their work and receive feedback.
- Integrate a research proponent to which other members of her academic team contributed.

- **T**each skills and etiquette required for formal writing on the internet.
- **E**ncourage safe and meaningful dialogue among students.



Jennifer Hall demonstrates Interactive Forums

Way to go, Jennifer! You've set a high standard for the rest of us.

Lunch

Our first potluck luncheon featured Irene's Pasta, Kalpana's Hot Chai Tea and Samosas, Jennifer's Pitas, Katherine's Ramune, Nancy's Lasagna, Nora's Raspberry Trifle, and Ruben's Pan Dulce, which had a serendipitous(or did you know, Ruben?) connection to...

Our First Speaker!

Jesse Cardona



Jesse began his teaching career in 1966, working for many years at Kennedy High School. He currently teaches at Incarnate Word High School.

Jesse grew up in Alice, “The Hub of South Texas.” He regaled us with stories and poems drawn from his formative years, first reading poems from his “Kinko’s special” publication, entitled, *At the Wheel of a Blue Chevrolet*. He also shared from *Pan Dulce*, another of his poetry collections, and anthologies, *Is This Forever, or What?*, (edited by Naomi Shabib Nye), *Heart to Heart*, (edited by Jan Greenberg), and *Red Hot Salsa* (edited by Lori Marie Carlson).

To explain his writing process, Jesse quoted the Polish poet, Wislawa Szymborska, who said, “Writing is the revenge of the mortal hand.” He explained that his writing consists of memories and wrestling to come to terms with his, “code switching culture.”

SAWP participants were privileged to hear Jesse read “My Mother Never Read to Me,” “The Old Dream Oven,” “Pan Dulce,” (Which was featured in Ray Santisteban’s independent film,

Voices from Texas) “Bato Con Khakis”, “Avocado Avenue,” “Caldos,” and “Amapolasong.”

To meet this “bookish Bato” is to like him. Jesse’s manner is relaxed, calm, and engaging, his poetry lyrical, rhythmic, and poignant.

For More Information about Jesse:

[Is This Forever, or What?: Poems & Paintings from Texas](#)

[Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States](#)

[Heart to Heart : New Poems Inspired by Twentieth-Century American Art](#)

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This Week!

- Demos from Nancy, Joni, and Bob
- First Writing Assignment is due Thursday
- Research groups on Monday and Wednesday
- Author Marian Haddad