

# MORNING

# JOURNAL

7/11  
Pages

Another exciting moment of creative energy, the room resonated with the sound of pens scratching across paper feverishly and keystrokes pounding as each writer wrote.

1. Reuben shared a new piece he was working on, inspired by a drive by the old neighborhood. In descriptive prose, Reuben movingly told of one-time residents who used to live in the now depilated house, and their young, pregnant daughter who refused to hang her head in shame for her condition. As Reuben described the girl's story, or what he could remember about it, he carefully crafted vivid images in our minds about the story behind the story, a stirring of memories brought upon by a chance encounter with an house being renovated.

2. Sheryl shared a personal journal about a weekend experience, candidly describing the feelings of isolation between herself and her family. Using metaphors and analogies, she wrote about parallel conversations that occur in families when people speak about things other than what they are really saying.

Feedback: As often is the case, he members of SAWP reflected on each

piece, relating to each and describing their thoughts.

For Reuben, kudos for his descriptiveness and ability to take us back in time!

For Sheryl, a the class described similar feelings of alienation among feelings, Joanie highlighting a universal feeling of division that calls out from the story to potential readers; Irene described the personal nature of the story liberating her into feeling as though she has "permission" to write about her own ambivalent feelings about her ill father.

## ABOUT THE "LOG"

A look back at our Monday session reflects on our first demonstration by pioneer Jennifer Hall, who dazzled us with the use of technology as she discussed "Interactive Novella", a means of working with writing in an online forum.

Another celebration as we remembered our delicious potluck, with (wink, wink) an eye on our next one...

Jesse Cardona: Our first guest speaker, the very talent poet who read beautifully.

## FEATURED DEMO SPECIALIST: NANCY GREGORY

Another brilliant presentation by a SAWP Member, Five stars out of five for another member of our team presenting on:

"Using Poetry to teach Reading/Writing Connection"

*"It is a sobering thought that each of us gives his hearers and his readers a chance to look into the inner workings of his mind when he speaks or writes." J.M. Barker*

## USING POETRY TO TEACH READING AND WRITING

- Anticipation guide: War theme
- Discussion survey: class had the opportunity to take a survey regarding views on war: very insightful as to your own beliefs, values
- Dialogue groups discuss what they agree with disagree with, find groups that agree with particular point or disagree with, dialogue
- Kid talk, develop child's ability to develop opinions thoughts; not IRE
- Reuben questioned whether it was appropriate for special ed, modifications, enhanced thought, etc: requires you to get off the fence, make a choice;
- Review of goals of anticipation guide
- Stir up controversy—powers thought process, competitive edge
- Trigger authentic writing

Demo, continued

- Genuine writing projects
- Peter Elbow: Writing every day, train the children to write

- Picking the most important word; it makes the poetry more realistic/meaningful; allows the reader to own the poem a little more, opinions can differ so much by everyone's interpretation is different.

- Devil's advocate: kids: talking about death, war hate, Yuck: makes them talk, kids who don't want to get in touch with themselves:  
Reply: not just a presentation of the dark side of life, Reuben—how to you get it across to the students so that they don't do it?

"I would find a lot of literature about heroes, and overcoming—discussion of triumphing; rising above the circumstances"

## DEMO FEEDBACK AND REFLECTIONS

Another wonderful demonstration, full applause: Nancy and Jennifer, you've set a high, high standard for all of us—thank you!

*"Every writer, without exception, is a masochist, a sadist, a peeping tom, an exhibitionist, a narcissist, an injustice collector, a depressed person constantly haunted by fears of unproductivity." Edmund Bergler*

## AFTERNOON PURSUITS

The afternoon flew as the members of SAWP went on to their individual writings before meeting in groups for their different projects.

**1. Writing Time:** An opportunity to stir the creative juices and let our words flow!

**2. Response Groups:** Sharing our efforts and giving feedback, Bless, Address, and Press... We celebrate the uniqueness of each writer and their efforts.

**3. Research groups:** Investigating the applicability to each book and sharing reflections and meaningful aspects of selected reads; Dr. Henkin joins each group to gain insight into our thoughts.

**4. Group Share:** Another opportunity to discuss our afternoon and share our ideas about writing.

- Katherine reads a journal she wrote describing the pet massacre in New Orleans
- Bob describes a news story about a prostitute who has lost her way and sees no escape from her

circumstances; he challenges the group to understand what he cannot understand, noting "there's a story here, I just haven't got it yet."

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- ❖ Demonstrations from Joanie and Bob
- ❖ Reminder: time to pick and choose if you have not already... The first writing assignment is due THURSDAY.

- ❖ Guest speaker: Marian Haddad

\*\*Thursday Potluck\*\* It's not ALL about the munchies, but it sure is something to look forward to!

Other notes: Call out to our own Kalpana whose absence was sorely noted! Hope to see you in class tomorrow!