



Massachusetts Reading Association

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MRA Sylvia D. Brown Scholarship Award Winning Action Research Proposals 2011

Closing the Achievement Gap: Implementing a Summer Reading Program for Elementary Students

Patricia M. Kelley \$500

Through this project at risk low income elementary students will have the opportunity to obtain and read books during the summer months, thus addressing the proverbial “summer slide.” Books purchased for this project will be used by Milford’s low income and most academically at risk students to read during the summer. In addition to books in English, books in Spanish and Portuguese will be used in the program. The project will serve students entering grades 3 and 4 who receive reading intervention during the school year. There will be 100 students involved in the program. The goals of this project are to increase the number of low income students who participate in summer reading and to give these students the opportunity to read books with and to their families during the summer months. Students will be able to keep these books. The students will also practice literacy skills at home through reading, writing, and discussion. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to read books in their own language to their children, fostering a bond that helps them understand the importance of literacy in the home. Members of the Milford community will also be involved in the project. Students will be assessed at the end of the year by a pretest to determine reading levels. They will be given three books at their level and a summer reading assignment packet. They will do the packet and fill out a reading log for each book. Students also check in once a week with an adult participant at the library to discuss their books. The project will be evaluated in the fall with an assessment to determine if there was no reading loss over the summer. Surveys will also be given to parents and teachers to comment on the program and its effect on student learning .

The Impact of Attitudes, Values, Beliefs, Desires, and Motivations on Literacy Learning

Nancy Meagher \$600

The purpose of this research project is to determine the impact of attitudes, values, beliefs, desires, and motivations on Literacy Learning. Children can be taught strategies, content, and concepts, but intrinsic motivation is key to lifelong learning and fulfillment. For this study, the researcher will measure student’s attitudes about themselves in a two month project requiring students to read at least five selected books, write summaries of the books, discuss with peers, and then vote on a favorite book. The subjects of this research will be 43 sixth grade students in two classes . The Reader Self Perception Scale

will be administered to students before the project begins. Students will be introduced to books from the Massachusetts Children's Book Award 2011 list to use in the project. They will keep a record in their Reading Journals of each selected book. They will list author, genre, brief summary and a rating of 1-5 . At the conclusion of the two month period, each student who has read at least five books may vote on one favorite novel. During the two month period, the teacher will meet with small groups of children. After the voting has taken place, the children will be assessed again on the RSPS, which will be administered as a post test.