



Workshop Number 9

Maria Montebello

Friday and Saturday

Language: English

Using fairy tales to generate different types of writing for different learning styles. Individual Differences in Children's Writing

Workshop Description

The first step in meeting the needs of the learners is to understand how they learn. Children bring different types of understanding to the writing task. The workshop addresses the challenge facing the teacher of these children. It provides writing opportunities in the classroom that enable the teacher to develop an appreciation of each child's knowledge, and enable all children to develop their skills at a level that is appropriate to their individual needs and interests.

The workshop acknowledges also the fact that although learners differ greatly in their understanding and interest, all have one very important thing in common – they have all a natural enthusiasm for and interest in writing. The workshop helps the teacher to provide writing experiences in ways that maintain interest and extend the children's skills.

Bio-note

Maria Montebello is a primary teacher in a Maltese state school where she has been teaching for the past nine years. Differentiation in literacy is an area of special interest to her. In June 2002, she participated in the Third Invitational Workshop Institute organised by the Malta Writing Programme (MWP) and two years later followed the Advanced course. Maria received also basic and advanced training in differentiated teaching by the Let Me Learn (LML) team of the University of Malta. As a teacher, she has disseminated her classroom experience in the Second Writing Convention for Teachers in June 2004, participated in teacher training by delivering a workshop at the first Writing Institute run by Maltese tutors of the MWP and delivered another workshop for parents and children in Family Writing Weekend in May 2005. Maria has recently presented a paper on differentiated teaching in the early years at the 2nd LML International Conference held at Citta' della Pieve in Italv.