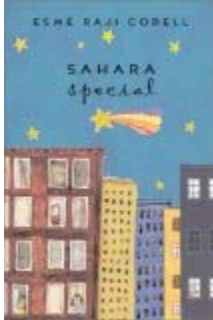


LIBRARY LANDSCAPE
November, 2006

BOOK SPOTLIGHT:



From School Library Journal

Sahara Special-Grade 3-6-In this delightful first novel, readers meet Sahara Jones in the school hallway, where she's been pulled out of class for sessions with the Special Needs teacher. It seems that Sahara's official school file is filled with her letters to her father, who had left the family, instead of her completed assignments. Sahara is a secretive writer; she fills her journal at home, then rips out the pages and stuffs them on the public library shelves behind the 940s for someone to discover someday. At her mother's insistence, the girl is taken out of the Special Needs program but is forced to repeat fifth grade. Enter a new teacher, Madame Poitier, who encourages her class to do, to write, to be, as never before. Sahara is sweeter than Harriet the Spy, as needy and engaging as Ramona, and is sure to be a character whom children will want to read about and get to know. Codell's take on fifth graders, teachers, Special Needs students, and mothers is very funny, and underneath the humor glows real warmth and love. A special novel that readers will not be able to put down.

*Linda Beck, Indian Valley Public Library,
Telford, PA*

5-DAY PRESCHOOL has been introduced to books in a variety of ways. The children have been taking a look at the non-fiction area of the library. They are using books for research as they create habitats for the animal they are interested in.

We have used picture books without words to introduce students and give them practice with the skills of predicting, questioning and retelling.

These are important reading comprehension skills.

KINDERGARTEN has been taking a look at alphabet books. They are looking and listening. Some of the things they have noticed are:

- ❖ that they have upper case and lower case letters
- ❖ some do not have words
- ❖ some rhyme
- ❖ mostly they go in order from A to Z
- ❖ some do not rhyme
- ❖ Some books had a "prize" sticker-the Caldecott Medal books for award winning illustrations

PRIMARY CIRCLE makes weekly visits to the library in search of books. I have also recently joined in their reading circles. I may just listen in or make a book suggestion to a student.

MAIN CIRCLE has become adept at cataloging their books. This is their real-life work where they have taken the knowledge they have learned about the Dewey Decimal system and have used it to organize the classroom non-fiction books into ten sections. They have had some very interesting conversations, such as debating whether a book about a baseball hero belongs in the 700's for sports and arts or whether it goes in the 900's with biographies.

Have a lot of books at home? Your child is ready for the challenge of organizing them!

**BOOK FAIR BEGINS MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 6TH-FEEL FREE TO STOP IN
AND HELP STUDENTS WRITE DOWN
THEIR FAVORITES OR SHOP!
OPEN CONFERENCE DAY UNTIL 3:00!!**

