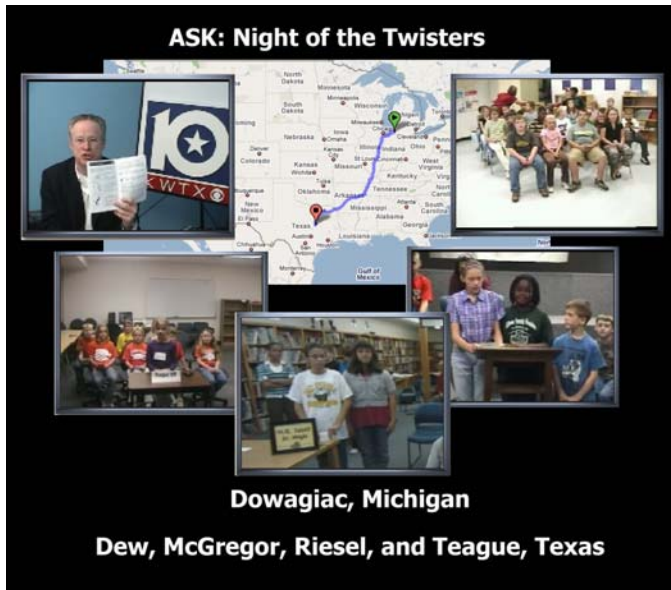


Don Foshee Memorial Grant Award 2007



Project Overview

Develop a series of events where students read a book with their class, discuss and share it online via Moodle, and then conduct an interview via videoconference related to the theme of the book. The students that we will begin with are in grades 5-8 and will involve reading and writing with possibilities for integration into social studies and science curriculum. The regional coordinator, Roxanne Glaser at ESC Region 12 in Waco, will publish dates and coordinate registrations. Teacher training on the process for reading the books, Moodling, and developing thought-provoking questions will be conducted prior to each session of this project.

Backyard Treasure Connection

We will partner with the following entities during the culminating video conference of this project so that the students can use the book as a reference and then gain additional knowledge and understanding from interacting with an expert in the field. We will use Moodle to continue dialogue with our partners after the video conference.

The following books will be the pilot year of this program:

1. Cracker Jackson deals with domestic abuse~ Family Abuse Center Staff
2. Monkey Island deals with homelessness~ Mission Waco
3. The Wall is an excellent tribute to Vietnam veterans~ Ft. Hood
4. Night of the Twisters ~local meteorologists

Successes

- Students were engaged in the reading of quality, high interest literature
- Excellent questions developed through ASK process
- Camera angles were good with signage
- Follow-up projects were conducted in the classrooms

Challenges

- Timing of the sessions
- Shipping of the books
- Getting all the books returned
- Finding the correct specialists
- Online dialogue tool
- Teacher training with use of blogs
- Getting specialists to interact online with student