

Monday, March 31, 2008

Quick Tips

April First Foolhardy? Try NuSpell on your Students

Students have a sense of humor that is commensurate with their age. And, some of your colleagues failed to grow up. So, expect April Fools jokes to be rampant on the "Day that Pranks Begot!" But, there are instructional ways to turn the tables on your rambunctious, "carried away by the mirth of it," students…teach them a lesson that they won't soon forget.

SidebarWouldn't it be "lovely" [sic] if all lessons were ones that our students didn't soon forget. Wishful dreaming?

Your strategy for "hot-seat role reversal" is to deliver a lesson on "NuSpell." Yes, there is such a thing, and the proof is online. Visit the NuSpell SiteNuSpell Bingo GameLink to the evolution of the alphabet Poor Little Sick Boy Story Link to the Hogs Time ArticleAnd what to do for an encore?

Let students recite the "Dearest Creature of Creation" Poem for special April First Prizes.

Link to the Dearest Creature of Creation Poem…

Be sure to preview and practice reciting this poem yourself. And, look up the pronunciation of the words that you don't know, otherwise the joke will be on you.

One great method for introducing this poem is to offer a "nice prize," say \$5.00 to any student that can recite the poem all the way through without errors. Another strategy is to offer a consolation prize of \$1.00 to the student that gets the farthest through the poem without making a mistake.

And, what great math lessons in:Creating graphs of how far each student gets in the poem, by either words or lines

Sorting lists of the missed words and creating sets of those categories

Creating statistics of performance of teams, i.e., boys vs. girls

groups based upon hair color

student height

Groups based upon affiliation such as, "Jocks, Geeks, Cheerleaders, Teacher's Pets, Eggheads, etc. Just prepare ahead of time, and watch the fun.

Oh! And be sure to wear green to keep from being pinched.

Posted by Classroom Toolkit Newsletter in Quick Tips at 07:00