



New Library News

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Let's Collaborate!

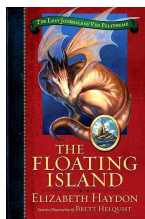


Lonestar Spotlight

The Floating Island

By: Elizabeth Haydon

Attacked by pirates and saved by a mermaid, Ven's amazing adventures include a talking cat, ghosts, an a quest for magical waters of the mysterious floating island.



Genre: Fantasy

Reminders



- Please encourage students to use **IDs** when visiting the library
- Encourage **Book Club** participation
- Please promote and encourage students to read the **Lonestar** books—AND come take the quiz
- Encourage students to use our **databases** at school and from home
- Send PowerPoint **announcements** for scroll
- Make the most of Maximum Read!

Library Events

- Feb. 6—Staff Dev. Day
- Feb. 9-11—Library Closed for inventory
- Feb. 18—Early Release

With our new Collaborative Tuesday initiative, I thought I would offer some support and ideas for creative ways to collaborate in your classroom. First of all, let me mention that we have several titles available in the professional section of our library that cover designing and initiating collaborative lessons in the classroom. Come check them out if you get a chance! You may be asking, "why group work?". Well, according to Elizabeth Cohen in the book *Designing Groupwork*, "it is a superior technique for conceptual learning, for creative problem solving, and for increasing oral language proficiency." According to Cohen, another added benefit is that group work solves prominent problems in the classroom by "keeping students involved with their work, and managing instruction for students with a wide range of academic skills." Following is a list of websites that offer information on designing cooperative learning as well as activities that utilize cooperative learning in the classroom:

Cooperative Learning: <http://edtech.kennesaw.edu/intech/cooperativelarning.htm>

UT Teaching Resource Center: <http://www.gdrc.org/kmgmt/>

CEC Lesson Plans: (type the URL below into the address bar)
<http://www.col-ed.org/cur/>

The Math Forum: <http://mathforum.org/workshops/sum96/data.collections/datalibrary/lesson.ideas.html>

ESL/EFL Classroom: <http://iteslj.org/games/>

Multicultural Pavilion: <http://www.edchange.org/multicultural/activityarch.html>

ESL Kidstuff: <http://www.eslkidstuff.com/Classroomgamesframe.htm>

Want to take your collaboration and cooperative learning a step further? How about connecting with other classes outside of our campus. Get together with a teacher from another middle school, and set up a video conference through a free services such as <http://www.sightspeed.com/>. This is an interesting way to connect classrooms across

Technology Tips of the Month

Using Google for Literature Trips

This idea came to me from TLC. Teachers have found a way to help students travel through novels and stories along with the characters with the help of Google Earth and Google Lit Trips. Using this website: <http://www.googlelittrips.com/> teachers are able to trace the journey of the characters in a book. The students are able to see the same buildings, rivers, landmarks, streets etc. that the characters are discussing. This site contains many pre-made Lit Trips, but teachers can also take the idea, and build their own in Google Earth! This is one more way to take your lesson to the next level and make it interactive.

Math & Science with Google Earth

Need real-world technology applications for math? Check out Real World Math at: www.realworldmath.org in order to access math lessons using Google Earth. This is a fun and interactive way for students to learn math concepts, engage in **collaborative** math projects, calculate distances, and explore interesting math. For science, check out current sky conditions and astrological events at <http://www.google.com/sky/>. These are just a couple ways to make your lessons interactive and technology oriented!