Picturing Writing and Image-Making are two dynamic, art-and-literature-based approaches to writing designed to meet the needs of students with diverse learning styles. Through the use of simple hands-on art experiences, the study of quality picture books, and an ongoing Artist/Writers Workshop, these innovative approaches to literacy learning give children access to visual and kinesthetic as well as verbal modes of thinking. They allow all children to enter the writing process from a position of personal strength and enthusiasm. Together, Picturing Writing and Image-Making provide an enticing, year-round, alternative pathway into writing for children with diverse learning styles.

Supported by current educational theory and research, this unique approach is guaranteed to engage reluctant writers and struggling readers as well as significantly advance students’ writing and reading skills.

This was an extraordinarily exciting way to experience the interplay between visual and verbal understanding of the world. I can’t wait to bring the process to my students!

— Cathy Klein, first-grade teacher

Picturing Writing: Fostering Literacy Through Art® utilizes simple crayon resist art processes and the study of quality picture books to support the literacy learning of all students. This innovative approach offers students the opportunity to become literate in two languages: the language of pictures and the language of words. As students move back and forth between pictures and words, they gain access to thought, language, and forms of expression otherwise unavailable, thus gaining fuller power of expression.

Drawing on the work of professional author/illustrators, participants will explore key literary elements such as sense of setting, mood, sequencing, beginning, middle, end, character development, and plot development in both pictures and words. Participants will learn how to use art to create descriptive passages, poetry, and research-based stories which are rich in detail and description. Brainstorming sheets and other visual tools designed to address individual story elements will also insure writing with clear purpose.

This unique workshop offers a dynamic model for teaching mandated language arts, social studies, and/or science curriculum in a way that is both engaging and effective. It has been proven particularly effective with at-risk students.

Picturing Writing & Image-Making

Introduction and Integrated Curriculum Model
July 6-10, 2009

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Week 2: Image-Making
Integrated Curriculum Research-Based Story
July 13-16, 2009

Image-Making Within The Writing Process is a dynamic art-and-literature-based approach to writing which utilizes collage made from hand-painted textured papers to construct story. Validated by the US Department of Education as an “innovative and effective literacy program,” Image-Making offers visual and kinesthetic, as well as verbal, modes of thinking at each and every stage of the writing process.

The Image-Making Integrated Curriculum Research-Based Story Workshop offers a dynamic model for teaching mandated curriculum to diverse learners in a way that is both engaging and effective. By researching a topic and then creating a portfolio of hand-painted papers, participants will have the raw materials to construct a fact-based collage story. Through the manipulation of cut and torn shapes on each page, participants will experience the power of rehearsing, drafting, and revising their story-line before creating written text. Reading each completed collage image will not only assist in the development of a story-line, but also help to access rich descriptive language. Specially designed brainstorming sheets will also insure that each page of writing is crafted with clear purpose.

Drawing on the work of professional author/illustrators, participants will learn how to artfully weave the language of pictures and the language of words to tell their research-based story. While the Image-Making process can be integrated into a number of topics in various content areas, the focus of this workshop will be on integrating Image-Making into the science curriculum. A wide variety of resources will be available for teachers on topics such as endangered species, animals in their habitat, insects, and ocean creatures. This process can be easily adapted to other curriculum units.

Picturing Writing allowed all my children to be successful. It provided wonderful concrete tools for rehearsal, drafting, and revision. I saw the most growth with my lowest students.

— Millie Parks, fifth-grade teacher

www.picturingwriting.org