



Get SMART!

How a Collaborative Institute Brought Math & Literature Together

What do math, literacy, and Kentucky universities have in common? They're all SMART!

The Supporting Mathematics and Reading through Books (or SMART Books) Institute took place on November 6 & 7, 2015 at Cochran Elementary School in Louisville. Twenty-six educators from across Kentucky participated in the two-day workshop that was facilitated by math and literacy experts Jennifer Bay-Williams, Lori Norton-Meier (the University of Louisville), Dorie Combs (Eastern Kentucky University), and Sherri Martinie (Kansas State University).



SMART Books Institute participants use a mathematical lens to explore children's literature as a means of making connections.

Elementary teacher, Kristie Turner of Waco Elementary in Madison County, said, "The SMART Books Institute was very eye opening to a new world of looking at literature through a mathematical lens. Well worth the time."

In addition, the opportunity to network with other teachers from across the state proved to be an invaluable experience for the participants to brainstorm and connect content ideas and strategies.

Meagan Willhite, intermediate teacher at Lemons Mill Elementary in Scott County, said, "Attending the SMART Books Institute has been an invaluable experience. I loved getting to network with others from around the state and collaborate on lesson plans with people at different grade levels. I can't wait to take this back to my school and share it with my colleagues."

Classroom resource activities for blending and incorporating math and literature content that were produced during the SMART Books Institute, as well as from other experts across the state, will be placed on the SMART Books website within the next several months. For a sneak peek, please visit <http://kcm.nku.edu/smartbooks>.

SMART Books Collaborators



The SMART Books Institute encouraged Kentucky educators to explore the incorporation of high-quality literature into math instruction. In addition, participants worked together to create instructional support materials that will be available for teachers throughout the state on the SMART Books website that is currently underway to expand in spring 2016.

One SMART Books Institute participant, Barbara Carter, School

Librarian at Arlington Elementary in Fayette County, described how her positive institute experience proved inspirational to her work with students: "A fast-paced and exciting day and a half of collaboration, new ideas and content standards that sparked creativity, laughter and great teaching tools. I am excited to see what will transpire...I probably will never look at a book I use with children in quite the same way again."

Many SMART Books Institute participants expressed their enthusiasm in learning intentional ways to link mathematics and literacy in their classroom to help students explore and bridge connections.



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