



## Save the Date!

April 10, 2013

The NJASK Strategy Fair will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Attend the fair to learn more about valuable testing tools such as the ones listed below:

- Eliminate Unreasonable Answers
- Underline Important Information
- Use Answer Choices to Substitute and Solve
- When in Doubt Draw It Out
- Use What You Know
- Rephrase the Question in Your Own Words



## Collaborative Comprehension Spot Light on Comprehension Skills

CCSS: 3.RL.3 Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

**Problem and Solution:** Third grade students often need to be reminded of the structure of a story. Frequently, the plot of a story begins with a problem and ends with a solution. The plot development moves from conflict to resolution through a series of steps or events. The **problem** is something that causes trouble for the character. The **steps/events of the story** move the plot forward towards a resolution. Finally, the **solution** is how that character solves, or fixes, the problem.

**Core Connection:** Using the core novel, *Lunch Money*, by Andrew Clements, teachers can model problem and solution using the Scholastic graphic organizer found in the Technology section of this newsletter. Together, the class should identify the problem that Greg experiences with Maura when he realizes that his *enemy* (Maura) is creating comic books that are “good.” Soon the enemies become partners. The students identify the events leading up to this unlikely partnership. Next, have the students identify an additional problem and solution as Greg and Maura experience conflict with the principal when he bans the sale of their comics in school.

## Working with Words

When using the program *Words Their Way* by Francine Johnston, Marcia Invernizzi, Donald Bear, and Shane Templeton, **don't forget to read the lesson suggestions for each sort provided in the companion texts.**

For example, in sort 9 (Y + Inflected Endings) of *Words Their Way: Word Sorts for Syllables and Affixes Spellers*, the authors explain that the rule, “Change the *y* to *i* and add *es*” is incomplete as *y* is only changed to *i* if it is preceded by a consonant, not a vowel. Teachers should pose questions to get students to think about the spelling changes.

- Compare **play** and **fry**
- What happened before the *-s*, *-ed*, and *-ing* were added to each?
- Speculate about why the *y* doesn't change to *i* before *-ing*



## Technology for Teachers

### Spotlight on Comprehension Skills: Problem Solution

Access the website below for an interactive graphic organizer from Scholastic.

#### [Problem Solution](#)

Access this website to view a second grade teacher's blog with prepared resources and activities related to the teaching of problem solution that can be adapted for grade three.

#### [Blog Resources](#)

## The Writing Lab



### Story Mountain

In *Writing Fiction: Big Dreams & Tall Ambitions* Session V, Lucy Calkins shows teachers how to use a story mountain as an “organizing tool to help students plan a story in which a character reaches towards a goal, then meets and overcomes difficulty.” The problems get harder as they approach the top of the mountain or story climax, where the character gains an understanding.

It may be helpful to read the core novel *Lunch Money* “like a writer” to help teach the story mountain concept. The following events can be plotted on the incline of the story mountain:

- Greg has two obsessions: making money and competing with his annoying neighbor (Maura).
- Greg is successful when he makes and sells miniature comic books.
- Maura cuts into Greg's business with her own illustrated comic books.
- Greg must admit that Maura's books are good; they become unlikely business partners.
- This partnership is threatened when the principal bans the sale of comic books at school.

## Book Corner



If your students are enjoying the core novel, *Lunch Money*, by Andrew Clements, they might be interested to know that Mr. Clements has recently released a new book titled *About Average*. In this story, Jordan Johnson is **average**, and she feels that everyone else is remarkable. Bestselling author Andrew Clements presents a compelling story which focuses on the importance of personal acceptance. Finding a book by a familiar author, with a topic that the students may relate to, is often motivating to our young readers.

[Andrew Clements](#)