



Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

Report Title: Growing Inspiration at Columbia University
Name: Sarah Price

Other Team Members: Amanda Cole

Program: Oklahoma Program

Trip Dates: 07/01/2012 - 07/08/2012
Location Visited: New York, United States

Post Fellowship Reporting Template: PFR Template 02

Project Summary: In July, I lived out my dreams of traveling to New York City. Even better than just experiencing the city's majesty, I got to learn and grow as a professional teacher. Since beginning my career, I have been lucky to be a part of a great school system that allows me many opportunities for professional development. These programs have taught me many ways to emphasize my literacy pedagogy. I have always felt more prepared after attending reading seminars and workshops. However, it was not until traveling to NYC and studying at Columbia University Teacher's College, that I now have a sincere passion for developing my own personal skills and motivating myself to achieve higher career goals.

We began the week with a plane ride to JFK airport on Sunday July 1st. Since the institute did not begin until Monday morning, our first New York experience was a trip to the top of the Empire State Building. It was to set the tone for the rest of the trip. Being at the top, I felt successful and truly proud of myself as a professional for the first time in my career. I became overwhelmed by emotions and prepared myself mentally to take on all aspects of this professional journey. This feeling of empowerment would continue through the week as I continuously felt validated for my years of literacy studies.

We began each day with a subway ride to Columbia University. On Monday morning we joined a group of a few hundred educators to hear the opening address by Lucy Calkins herself, the author of the Units of Study for Reading, my school's literacy curriculum. Every morning thereafter, we would enter the beautiful Milbank Chapel, where we were mentored by a leading Columbia professor Shawna Schwartz. The topics of these sessions oversaw the reading workshop curriculum and broke it down to relatable terms. We then attended Keynote addresses by magnificent juvenile authors such as Lois Lowry. This was a highlight of the institute as I was able to meet the author of some of my favorite young literature works. In the afternoons we studied in small group sessions and was able to focus on the study of comprehension, phonics, and implementation of the workshop model. Our days of study came to an end with closing workshops lecturing on topics from: minilessons and conferring with readers, to anchoring the workshop with Common Core. Throughout the week I was propelled into the art of balanced literacy.

Career Impact: * Rejuvenated my passion for education and inspired my personal achievements
*Allowed me to focus on everyday fundamentals of teaching such as class management and guiding independence
*Summarized the Reading Workshop model to build upon components of balanced literacy
*Supported school-wide development to strengthen classroom teachers

Classroom/Community Impact:*Focused on application of reading purposes to propel my students to higher thinking strategies
*Anchored Common Core Standards across year long curriculum
*Set up success through management tools and routines that support independence, stamina, and engagement
*Demonstrated structures and teaching tips for ELL students
*Developed accountability through running records and performance assessments
*Provided powerful methods to organize readers to work with rigor and productivity
*Outlined spelling, phonics, and vocabulary to develop a word study curriculum

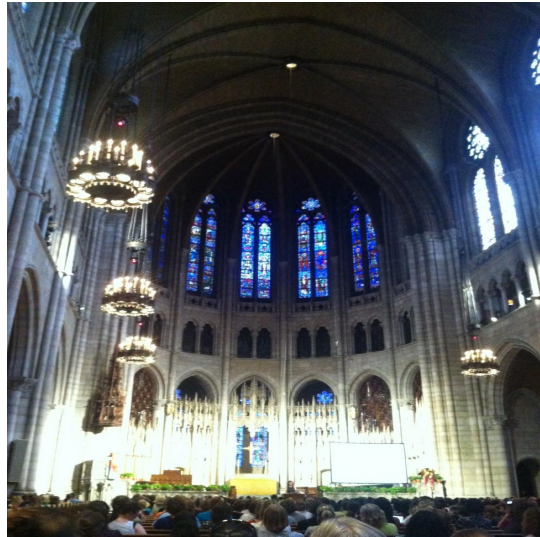
Open Response: *Identify characters, settings, and major story events
*Reading a book so that it sounds like a story
*Notice patterns, language, rhyme, repetition and how stories are alike
*recall additional high-frequency words
*Use all culminating skills to build fluency and automaticity
*collaborate in conversations with diverse partners about texts
*Understand that reading is about doing several kinds of work, all at the same time
*Look at pictures page by page for detail support

Quote: The secret to performance and satisfaction-at work, at school, and at home- is the deeply human need to direct our own lives, to learn and create new things, and to do better by ourselves and our world.

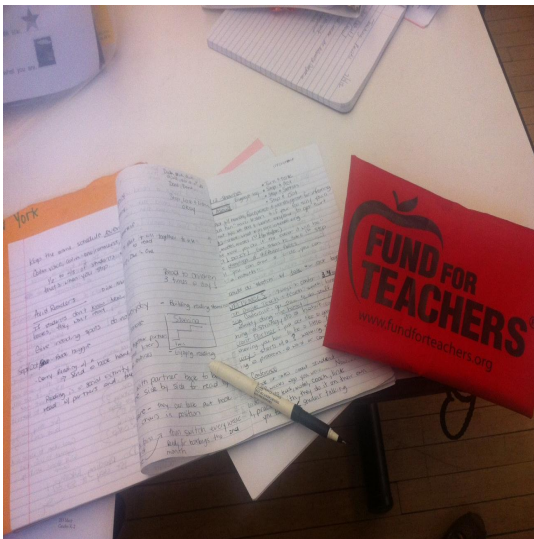
Photos:



Enjoying the sunshine outside of Columbia University



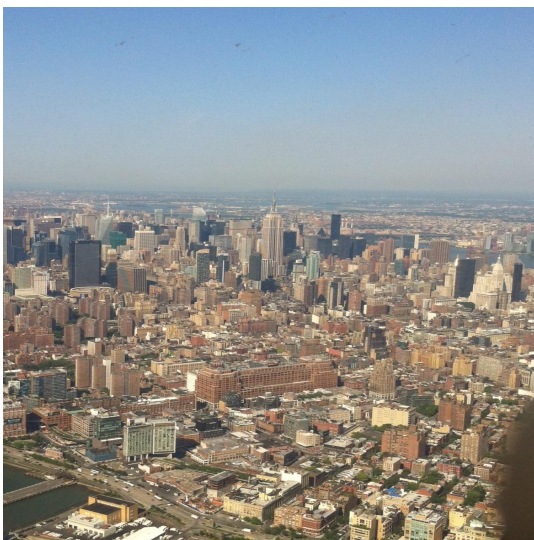
Keynote presentation at the majestic Riverside Church



Hard work equals success for FFT Fellows



First night of a life changing experience



NYC skyline will inspire you



Times Square-awe inspiring



The Natural History Museum was a highlight of the experience



Fund for Teachers and Columbia University has truly inspired me