



## Post Fellowship Reporting - Project Summary

**Report Title:** Reading Workshop Training at Teachers College, Columbia University      **Name:** Clare Watsky

**Other Team Members:** Clarissa Chiu, Jennie Chen, Michelle Kishimoto, Winnie Leung

**Program:** San Francisco Program

**Trip Dates:** 11/30/-0001 - 11/30/-0001      **Location Visited:** New York City

**Post Fellowship Reporting Template:** PFR Template 02

**Project Summary:** Our team attended the Summer Reading Institute at Columbia University. We proposed our fellowship because we wanted to change the way we teach reading at our school. We wanted to help all our students get excited about reading and become enthusiastic, lifelong learners. We were inspired by the demonstrations we saw of the Reading Workshop in action. Learning side-by-side with teachers from all over the country made us confident that we would be able to implement changes when we returned to our school.

**Career Impact:** The Reading Workshop is not an easy program to implement. I have had negative thoughts (e.g., "This will be too much work," "Other teachers won't buy into this," etc.). But the most powerful idea I took away from Columbia is that young students have the same drive as adults to find meaning in stories and talk with others about what matters to them. My doubts about the challenges of implementation seem less important than my belief in the method's effectiveness. I feel empowered to share my deepest self as a reader to inspire my students.

**Classroom/Community Impact:** At the Teachers College workshop I was empowered not only to value my expertise as the school librarian, but also to learn new methods and ways of thinking about teaching reading. In the past I resisted "leveled reading" as too restrictive, but I now see its value in helping struggling students become proficient readers. The new atmosphere of mutual support and respect in our school is palpable. I feel very optimistic about the possibility of positive changes not only to our reading program, but to our entire school culture.

**Open Response:** All the teachers who attended the Institute shared our experiences in New York at a staff meeting before school began. The entire staff was engaged and excited, as if there were no division between those who attended the training and those who didn't. I modeled an interactive read-aloud for the staff which was received enthusiastically. The PTA has reacted very positively to the new initiative and featured our summer workshop at Columbia on the front of the school web page at <http://www.shermanschool.org/>

**Quote:** "The Reading Workshop gives teachers the tools to inspire each student to become a lifelong reader who can think deeply about text and be changed and affected by the words of others" -- Jennie Chen, Sherman School Teacher

Photos:



Clare Watsky (2nd from left) with Team Members Jennie (3rd) and Clarissa (4th)



Clare (white shirt) in small group meeting



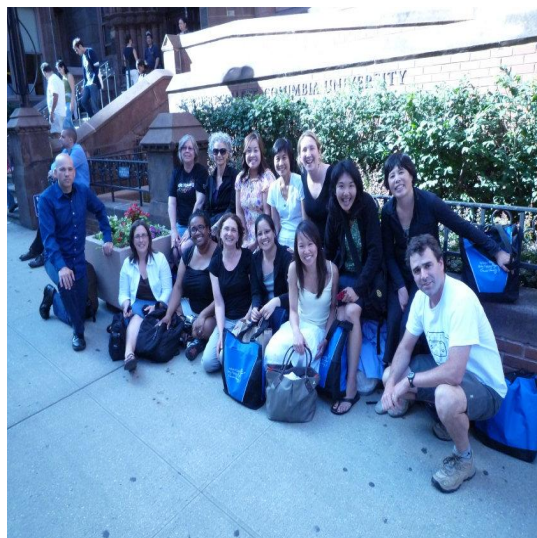
Clare and Jennie Chen (3rd Grade Teacher)



Teachers Clarissa, Michelle, Laurie and Winnie meeting with reading coach



Our Team - Clare, Clarissa, Winnie, Jennie and Michelle



Our Sherman School Team in New York - Half the Staff!



Clare (left) in small group discussion with other teachers



Clare with teacher Alexandra Roman (right) in small group