

Portraits of the WKU WP
The Night the Whole Class Slept Over
by Stella Pevsner

The Student:

4th grade student in the "Lunch Bunch" reading/writing focus group at William Natcher Elementary in Bowling Green.

The Teacher:

Karen Scott, 4th grade, William Natcher Elementary, 1992 Project.

The Assignment:

This project is part of an on-going collaboration between our school media specialist, Alecia Marcum, and myself. The "Lunch Bunch" is a group of my top 6 readers as determined by the STAR Reading Test. We meet every Tuesday for lunch, conversation about books, and special writing activities. As part of this, students have been producing Book Reviews. These reviews have been published in our school newsletter, shown on our weekly school news telecast, and have been made into IMOVIE presentations that were shared with parents (and hopefully on the local community access channel). To help teach the style of Book Reviews, students were shown a "book review recipe." This can be found on the website:

<<http://www.teacherweb.com/KY/BowlingGreen/AleciaMarcum>>.

The Text:

Title: *The Night the Whole Class Slept Over*

Author: Stella Pevsner

My book is about a boy named Dan who moves to a new city. Of course, that's nothing new because his parents (who are artists) are always moving. Dan gets a friend named Felix and also gets a crush on a girl named Amanda.

One day, everyone finds out about the library sleepover. Apparently, it's the big event of the season. Guess what happens at the sleepover? I can't tell you that but, to find out, you should read the book. I personally recommend it.

AR points: 7.0

Level: 5.4

Test # 6675

Genre: Adventure

Student Commentary: What about this assignment helped me learn to write.

This assignment helped me learn more about writing book reviews. I hadn't written one before, so the assignment showed me how.

Teacher Commentary: What I do to help students learn writing.

I believe that students need to read models of literature in order to become better writers. Our "Lunch Bunch" allowed students to talk about books that they were reading and to share them with a "real" audience (their peers, the school, and the community). By using the Book Review REcipe, the students were able to better organize their ideas and state their opinion.