

## October 22, 2010 – ELA Newsletter

Dear ELA Contacts,

Please find several ELA updates below. Please forward this information on to your colleagues.

### ELL Strategies - All Grades

A new document entitled "ELL Strategies" has been posted into the Instructional Resources file in the ARRC. This wonderful document, created by Bertha Benedict, provides many useful and practical instructional tips and reminders about how to best meet the needs of English Language Learners.

### Important TAKS Information - All Grades

As part of allowable accommodations for Special Education students, students are allowed to use graphic organizers on the TAKS test as long as these accommodations are regularly used as part of classroom instruction. Region 13 has started a powerful project to collect as many of these graphic organizers as possible, and via their website post the degree to which TEA blesses or partially blesses these organizers as allowable. The graphic organizers are posted by content area:

<http://www5.esc13.net/agc/accommodations.html>

### Calendar

November 2	Primary Literacy Collaborative Meeting	Forest Creek Elementary	3:15-4:45
November 4	DRA/EDL & TPRI/Tejas Lee Contact Meeting	Athletic Complex	3:00-4:30

### The Heart of Texas Writing Project presents Katherine Bomer

#### Organization, Word Choice, Voice, and Revision: What students can learn from writing poetry

Katherine will show how to put poems in the center of our instruction to help our students write with precise language, focus, voice, and sensual detail—all qualities of good writing that kids need to have at their command, no matter what genre they are writing, even non-fiction. First she will take us through an entire poetry unit of study, complete with minilessons and dozens of poems to use as mentor texts. Then Katherine will suggest ways to help kids translate the gifts of poetic language, rhythm, and imagery to other kinds of writing they will produce in school and in life. Thursday, November 11, 2010, 9:00 – 3:00 pm, Thompson Conference Center. \$60.00 per person. \*Please ensure prior principal approval to cover costs before registering. Registration form attached.



Nov11\_Katherine.pdf

Have a lovely Friday and a great weekend!

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A book should serve as the ax for the frozen sea within us.  
--Franz Kafka