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Announcing MRA's Teacher of the Issue

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ANNOUNCING MRA's TEACHER OF THE ISSUE

Pearl V. Lang
Sixth Grade Teacher
Holland Woods Intermediate School
Port Huron, Michigan



"In my more than twenty years of close contact with elementary and middle school teachers, I would be hard pressed to identify a more effective and more loved teacher than Pearl." So reads the accolade expressed by Mrs. Lang's Principal in a recent letter nominating her for "Teacher of the Issue."

One of the outstanding aspects of Mrs. Lang's instructional program is the emphasis on learning as an individual experience. A "Classic Books" section located in her room is introduced during the first week of school in September. Among these are: *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Ivanhoe*, *Tom Sawyer*, *Ben Hur*, *Canterbury Tales*. Each pupil is guided in selecting a classic to read. Upon completion, a review is written on a prepared form. This has always been a successful part of her reading program. While the students need only read one classic in a six-week period, many of them read four or five. One student read the complete set of fourteen and asked for more! It is interesting to note that Pearl lists reading as one of her own hobbies!

Multiple activities are provided in her reading program from easy to difficult. She finds that constant evaluation and immediate feedback to students is vital. She also feels strongly that each student must experience success - a significant motivation for all.

Reading projects are constantly reinforcing the skills. For example, in organizing ideas or information, the students obtained information from home regarding their ancestors and then organized it into a family tree.

Mini-lessons are given in comparing and contrasting, using the Hilda Taba method. Reading in the content areas is accentuated. In Social Studies the class was involved in a project on Human Rights which led to an examination of the Declaration of Independence, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In examining individuals and groups whose rights had been violated according to law, the children were anxious and able to quickly refer to the document and read what *specific* right or rights has been violated. This led to their wanting to read and learn more about the groups or individuals and to write new laws.

Congratulations, Pearl, from THE MICHIGAN READING ASSOCIATION! We are proud of the fine work you are doing for children.

(Nominations for Teacher of the Issue may be sent to Gerald Duffy, 201 Erickson, MSU, E. Lansing, MI 48824.)