

****LIST OF CONFERENCES ON BREADNET** 1995**

Hello ALL BREADNETTERS:

Here is your November installment of conferences on BreadNet.

Regarding the list below, please feel very free to join any of these conferences. If you have questions about a conference, send a message to the conference contact listed at the end of each description. Also, this list is not complete, but lists some of the active conferences, as well as conferences which may be dormant right now, but were recently very alive. Feel free to contact me if you have an idea for a new conference. This list will be updated monthly. If I did not include your conference and you would like it to be included in next month's list, please send me a message with the information.

Some of these conferences are "read-only." Feel free to read along through the conference. If you have any questions or comments, send messages to participants' private mailboxes.

Also, before you participate in a conference, please be certain to read: "Guide to Computer Conferences" and the message I recently sent to Cyberbarn, with the subject line, "Make Sure You Read This," for suggestions and protocols governing conference participation. -- Caroline Eisner

CONFERENCES:

AdobeNet: This is a conference dedicated to discourse regarding trends/issues/concerns in the Latino community; these can include any aspect of the Hispanic/Chicano life -- education in general, identity, labeling, literature, conventions, school projects. Quilts: (a sub-conference of AdobeNet): Using the poem "My Mother Pieced Quilts" by Teresa Paloma Acosta as a springboard for compiling a "mosaic" of Chicano thoughts. Sub-conferences include Heritage, Tributes, and Quilts. For more information, contact: Susan Miera.

Alternative Assessment: Have you been hiding in your classroom, secretly seething during the mandated normed tests? Are you ready to burst out and talk about options for testing and ways to make assessment an ongoing part of your program? Well this is the place for you! For more information, contact: Karen Mitchell.

Anne Frank: Students exchange essays and ideas based on their readings of Diary of a Young Girl. This conference happens at least once a year, and for the past two years has been one of BreadNet's most successful. If you are interested in getting in on the next exchange or for more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Art in Classroom: A place for teachers who use art in their classrooms to discuss ideas and strategies. For more information, contact Caroline Eisner.

Bell Hooks Reading: This conference is a reading circle based on reading bell hooks' book Yearning: race, gender, and cultural politics. This is a read and discuss conference. For now, Moira Donovan, Mary Juzwik, and Karen Snow are the readers, and it will be *read only* unless someone else wants to join who is willing to read the book along with them. They proceed chapter by chapter unless something else presents itself. For more information, contact: Moira Donovan, Mary Juzwik, and Karen Snow.

Blue CyberParlor: This conference is a place for BreadNetters to share their own prose and poetry and to offer constructive feedback to their fellow writers. It's modelled on the Blue Parlor readings in Vermont and isn't meant to be an in-depth critique of works posted - just an opportunity for various wordmongers to gather some impressions on first drafts or finished products. For more information, contact: Hugh Coyle.

Colorado: This conference, organized by teachers in Colorado, includes students writing about what they think the East or the West is like and what kind of people live there; writing on the topic of what it takes to be a pioneer and ideas of what kind of people are pioneers and adventurers (in a sub-conference called, "O Pioneers"); as well as reading short stories on the themes of journeys and heroism. For more information, contact: Michelle Mauck.

Cross Cultural: This conference exchanges student writing across state lines and cultural barriers. For more information, contact: Rocky Gooch.

CWS: Teachers discuss their activities involving the Writing for the Community project. For more information, contact: Dixie Goswami.

Cyberbarn: Think of the Cyberbarn as the electronic version of Vermont's real-life wooden barn, where we sit around and talk and think and make connections which last throughout the year. This is the place you send your general questions and comments and your "Calls for Participation." Cyberbarn is the place to find other BreadNetters who want to form new conferences.

Elementary: This conference is open to all, but especially concerns K-6 public school teachers who are interested in setting up exchanges with young children. For more information, contact: Karen Mitchell.

Hamlet/Student: This read-only conference is a place for secondary school literature classes to exchange interpretations and questions on Shakespeare's Hamlet, the conference goal being to help students realize a whole other population of readers thinking about Shakespeare's plays outside of the standard classroom or study cubicle. Lundy Smith (St. Andrews School, DE) and Sue Campbell (Brooks School, MA) will set up four or five specific thinking questions each week for the students to reply to. Students from each school will then discuss on-line the responses to teacher questions. For more information, contact: Sue Campbell or Lundy Smith.

Jobs: The place for Bread Loaf students and graduates who are looking for jobs or whose schools have openings to post requests. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Mockingbird: This conference is an exchange of student essays, questions, and responses on To Kill a Mockingbird. This conference happens at least once a year. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

NA Planning: This conference is a place to discuss Native American literature, culture, and issues. Teachers of Native American students as well as teachers who are teaching Native American literatures exchange student essays, share teaching ideas and sources, and discuss works by Native American authors. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner

Nature Writing: This conference is organized around students' experiences with and writing about the natural world. For a list of nature writing ideas you can use in your classroom, refer to Bill Rich's list which is in the Nature Writing folder. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Place Project Notes: This is a place where we can share our observations, breakthroughs, frustrations and questions resulting from our various trials and plans in teaching the theme of "A Sense of Place." Hopefully this centralized conference will allow people across regions and states to share what they've been up to. For more information, contact: Tom McKenna.

Shakespeare: Any discussion of Shakespeare's work can take place here. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Theater: A place for teachers of drama, drama coaches, play directors to discuss and gather ideas for their classrooms and productions. Members of Bread Loaf's theater staff also are on-line to answer your technical questions and to share their expertise. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Thoreau and Frost: This conference is an international conference that focuses on two major American writers: Thoreau and Frost. The students who are participating in the conference are high school students from Vermont, Alaska, and Finland. A theme of the conference is American Romanticism, particularly nature. For more information, contact: Robert Baroz, Tom McKenna, or Greg Imbur.

Writers Workshop: A place to share ideas, frustrations, and experiences about teaching writing. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Private Conferences:

These conferences are smaller and may have a schedule worked out between the teachers involved. However, feel free to write to the contact person if you are interested in getting involved, or if you want information about when and if you can get in on the next exchange.

Albemarle Friends: This peer conference, between a ninth grade public school class and an eighth grade independent school class, involves exchanges of and responses to memoir writing and other works of short fiction. For more information, contact: Leif Gustavson or Laura Klein.

Freedom Project: Classes are currently discussing "Roll of Thunder," and will read other books dealing with civil rights. For more information, contact: Renee Moore.

Gangs: Participants in this conference are reading "Mi Vida Loca, or Way Past Cool," "Priscilla and the Wimps," "On the Sidewalk Bleeding," and "The Last Spin." They will talk about student, teacher, and parent issues concerning the influx of gang involvement in their communities. For more information, contact: Rosie Roppel

International Fest: This is a place where international teachers or anyone thinking of teaching internationally can talk about issues related to teaching or living abroad. For more information, contact: Caroline Eisner.

Hawaii-Virginia: This electronic writing workshop between at-risk ninth grade public schoolers and advanced creative writers in eleventh and twelfth grade at an independent school involves the exchange of personal narrative, poetry, and playwriting. For more information, contact: Asha Appel or Laura Klein.

LMSWAC: A place for Laguna Middle School staff to explore and develop the teaching of literacy across the curriculum at their school. Using this online conference format, LMS will share ideas, questions, and concerns about how to best accomplish this goal. The hope is that this conference will help increase theoretical understanding of the best ways to teach literacy, and to develop curricular ideas. For more information, contact: Phil Sittnick.

Old Ways/New Ways: Students will write and respond to cross state/cultural groups on a common, peer-generated theme via BreadNet. For more information, contact: Sondra Porter.

Student Stories: Students write personal narratives about their real-life experiences. For more information, contact: Bette Ford.

WFC: Since 1986, Writing for the Community has been working with an informal network of teachers, students, and out of school partners across the country who are engaged in community writing projects. All ages and levels of education, all of us, must learn to read public documents critically, understanding what they mean and what they imply, if we are to make informed decisions about matters of urgency to us and our neighbors. Most importantly, when we are involved in these non-academic writing projects, we have a chance to participate actively in the life of our communities, to acquire the habit of service that leads to active, transformative literacy. For more information, contact: Dixie Goswami.

The following conferences began this past summer at Bread Loaf Vermont as integral components of the classes. Although the classes have ended the discussion can continue. Even if you were not in the class this summer and are interested in posting to one of the conferences, contact Caroline Eisner.

WCM: Women in Cultures of Modernism, taught by Sarah Blair

Hollywood Film, taught by Jonathan Freedman

Eliot/James, taught by Margery Sabin

VB: Vygotsky and Bakhtin, taught by Peter Medway

WAA: Writing as Action, taught by Peter Medway
Ulysses, taught by Victor Luftig
Poetry Workshop, taught by Carole Oles

Bread Loaf Rural Teacher Network (BLRTN) Conferences:

There are five conferences -- Alaska, Southwest, Mississippi, South Carolina, Vermont -- which comprise this project. Please feel free to get involved. There are many exchanges (some of which are listed below) taking place in the individual state conferences. For more information, contact: Rocky Gooch.

AK-MS Lit: One of the truly useful features of BreadNet is the possibility of cross-regional contact between students. Especially in the literature classroom, such exchanges can lead to a broader acceptance and understanding of cultural contexts than is available in classrooms generally. In this instance, the students involved are eleventh graders in Sharon Ladner's American Literature class in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and those in Rod Mehrtens' English III class in Dillingham, Alaska. The literature discussed will center on the exchange of local ghost stories and legends as well as on American literature short story classics. For more information, contact: Sharon Ladner or Rod Mehrtens.

Chaucer 95: This conference is a collaboration of four teachers who are teaching Chaucer's Canterbury Tales to various grade and ability levels of students. The writing exchange will center on background of Chaucer, the "General Prologue," and "The Pardoner's Tale." Students will also view "Beckett," a movie about the incidents leading up to the Archbishop's murder in Canterbury Cathedral. This conference is read-only. For more information, contact: Janet Atkins.

Choices: This conference is a thematic-based unit that will run the course of the year. The conference will involve projects and pieces of literature which emphasize students making choices and then reflecting on the consequences, good or bad, of those choices. The underlying theme is to help students see that in many ways they are in

control of their lives because they are making so many choices every day, but that, in making choices, they are responsible for the outcome of their choices. For more information, contact: Sylvia Barlow, Wendy Bessera, Ann Eilert, or Susan Miera.

Current Events: Students will write and respond to current events, regional, national and international. Focus is to increase awareness and create dialogue. For more information, contact: Sondra Porter.

Diversity: Two classrooms, Prudence Plunkett's classroom in Alaska, and Virginia Rawlojohn's in New Mexico, are working to become aware of the diversity of people in the world and thus to increase their tolerance and understanding of people who are "different" from themselves. Students will exchange creative writing and responses to literature. This conference is read-only. If you have questions or comments, contact: Prudence Plunkett or Virginia Rawlojohn.

Field and Stream: This conference is based on hunting and fishing. We hope that this conference will lead to new information dealing with techniques, recipes, and literature that would help make us more successful in the lifestyle that we love so much. For more information, contact: Ginny DuBose.

Getting into Place: This conference hopes to get Navajo students to take a closer look at the place where they live, and derive some identity, better writing skills, and increased pride of place. Students will spend time writing out-of-doors. For more information, contact: Kurt Caswell or Mary Juzwik.

Red Fern: Three classrooms, one in Mississippi, one in Arizona, and one in New Mexico, will exchange student work throughout the year and will conclude with a literature discussion of the book, "Where the Red Fern Grows." Contact Jill Loveless, Terri Noonkester, or Theresa Melton.

Relationship: This conference is designed for students to share literature and ideas about different relationships between people. Friendship, the relationships between

family members, and romantic relationships are discussed online in this conference. This is a read-only conference. For more information, contact: Ginny DuBose.

Rites of Passage: This is a conference about growing up. Classes will read and respond to books for middle school kids and use them as a springboard for discussing the problems and joys of growing up. This is a read-only conference. If you have questions or comments, contact Nancy Jennings or Linda Hardin.

SC-AZ: The purpose of SC-AZ is to create a bond among students in South Carolina, Arizona, and Vermont. Through an exchange of literature and creative writing, we hope to learn of each other's cultures. At the conclusion of the conference, we will do reflective writing on what we have learned about each other's lives and to hopefully publish the best student writings. For more information, contact: Ginny DuBose.

SC-NM: Students in Susan Miera's New Mexico classroom and in Ginny Dubose's South Carolina classroom exchange the following essays and responses: personal introductions, cultural stories, geography pieces, local recipes, identity pieces. For more information, contact: Susan Miera or Ginny DuBose.