

Sheila King was one of my grant award winner's in December. She and her students have been busy since receiving their \$500 planning a new reading center in their room. Sheila has very thoughtfully engaged her students in this process, and it sounds like they're learning a great deal! Here are two updates from Sheila:

February 10, 2004:

Our class has tried to approach this class library project in a thoughtful manner. After much discussion, we have begun to take some action! We began by making several lists such as: our favorite books, characters, themes, and authors.



Next, working with partners, we are going through our current book collection sorting the books into categories. After this, we looked back at our lists and added new ideas generated by going through our own collection. This project has already brought a fresh awareness of book genres that my students had not previously considered. Fiction and non-fiction are being considered.



We are planning a visit with our librarian at the end of this week to talk about the best method of organizing our books. Going through our book collection was helpful. It is helping our class pinpoint what we need most for our classroom library. More updates coming soon! (See below)

February 29, 2004:

We have now received all of our books and are busy organizing our classroom library. We have visited our librarian, Mrs. Phy, and she has given us pointers about getting our library in order.

We have a new couch in our classroom and our book corner is the most popular spot in our classroom. We are working on a cover for our couch with our handprints painted on it. We take turns each day being "pillow pals" and "couch buddies". We've searched the building and located more shelves, twice, for growing library. It's a great problem to solve.



I'll send you more photos soon - I am so proud of my class. They have bloomed into thoughtful readers. I have purchased your new book (Just-Right Writing Lessons) and look forward to reading during Spring break!



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