



# LETHBRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 51

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## ***JOANNE MOORE AND HER "SUCCESS" PROGRAMS***

*I have had the pleasure of participating in several workshops with JoAnne Moore in both the areas of reading and writing. As a Director of Curriculum I often get asked to find individuals who can help our teachers in all areas of classroom instruction. Over the course of three years JoAnne facilitated several workshops for our primary and elementary teachers and soon the junior high teachers were also asking for sessions in the area of writing. Teachers have embraced many of JoAnne's writing techniques and have brought their own excitement to their classrooms.*

*JoAnne brings such energy and passion to her sessions that it is impossible to not get excited. Some teachers have thanked me for helping them, in the last few years of their teaching, change the way they teach writing. The samples of writing that I have read were far beyond my expectations for the grade and not only was the teacher enthusiastic, the children wanted to write more and more. The children have gained confidence in their abilities to see and feel what they want their audience to experience and their vocabularies have grown as a result of the brainstorming opportunities. One of the wonderful aspects of the brainstorming is that all children have something to offer – even if their life's experiences are very limited.*

*Last year I worked with a group of teachers at one of our elementary schools and we used the circle story structure as a starting point. The fun these teachers had creating a story together was energizing and contagious. On a visit to one of the classrooms a few weeks later a first-year teacher was excited to show me her story charts and prompts that were proudly displayed around her classroom. She also showed me samples of stories from children who "had never written a story before". Her pride in her students shone through her eyes and sang out in her words.*

*JoAnne has provided teachers with a wonderful series of story structures and lessons to help even the least-experienced teacher on the path of exciting and meaningful story writing. Her approach in her workshops is very open and inviting for teachers and assistants. Her teacher books are rarely available in our Curriculum Resource Centre because they are always in use! We hope to bring JoAnne back to the Lethbridge area to share her expertise with our teachers and children. I would suggest that her very busy schedule is a reflection of how practical and worthwhile the "Reading With Success" and "Writing With Success" sessions are for teachers throughout the province. One has to be very proactive and plan two years in advance!! Would I bring JoAnne back to work with our teachers?? In a heartbeat!!*

*Sheryl Hawkins  
Director of Curriculum  
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