

Learning at the LRC

October 2011

Banned Books Week



Celebrate the Freedom to Read!

By Hilda Gomez and Yensi Vides

Banned Books week was celebrated the week of September 24th-October 1st. As part of the focus students volunteered to read their favourite books in the LRC. Some even participated in creating a video for the American Library Association's Virtual Read-Out. In doing so students spoke about their favourite books and explained why the book may have been banned at a point in time, somewhere in the world..

Each year our students have shown a greater level of interest in this activity, which they've demonstrated by asking important questions about literature and censorship.

For more information on Banned Books Week please visit the [American Library Association Website](#).



When Students Become the Teachers...

By Jennifer Garcia

...the classroom roles are reversed. Students are provided the opportunities to explore concepts and apply their learning through the processes of planning and teaching a concept. With the advent of screen casting this has become much easier to document and share.

Our 6th grade and 8th grade students are currently finishing off a series of tutorials, which they have planned and scripted in Google Docs, and produced using [Screencast-o-matic](#), QuickTime recorder and iMovie. It is our hope that these screencasts will be useful not only for the ABC community, but people around the world. They will be available shortly on the [LRCABC YouTube channel](#).

The Puppet Project

By Rodrigo Alfaro

Two weeks before the rains came and school was suspended, the LRC embarked on a new project: a puppet workshop. Having had no previous puppet-making experience, Mrs. Garcia and I decided to learn how to build them and teach interested students as a part of Theatre Week.

There were many puppet types to choose from, but after some research, we decided to work with foam puppets. We leveraged a variety of online resources including YouTube and learned how to draw and cut out patterns, foam and glue our puppets together. Our very first puppet, a simple puppet, a prototype we named Space Toad (which can be seen above), was created in just under an hour.

In creating the puppets, we decided to use polyurethane foam, contact cement and silicone glue instead of fabrics as these materials are easier to work with. Even so, it still took over an hour to cut, glue, build, paint and decorate each individual puppet; depending on how complex the design was.

We advertised the project with short video using our Twitter Feed, YouTube Channel and Facebook account and promoted it through email and Tutor time. Very quickly, a small group of students volunteered to start making their own puppets.

Many other students became excited by what they saw, and joined up too. Shortly afterward, little foam-heads and bodies start to take shape and it became apparent that the demand for the activity was high. The project was extended for an additional week in which some students began creating puppets while others worked on the more cosmetic aspects of puppet making.

Overall, the workshop was a success; despite the poor weather which forced us to suspend the activity. It really motivated students to be creative with this particular art form. This workshop, which we will definitely repeat, also encouraged students to develop their acting and drama skills, having lots of fun while doing so!

Do you want to know more about the LRC? Use the following links to do so:

[Learning Resources Centre Site](#)
[ABCICT](#)

[LRCABC YouTube Channel](#)

[LRCABC Flickr Galleries](#)

[Learning Resources Centre Facebook Page](#)

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