

Literacy Tips



Tips for middle school educators on various topics such as grammar, writing, reading, spelling, vocabulary, cooperative learning and more.

Contact: Amy Goodman
Middle School Literacy Support
907-267-0221
goodman_amy@asdk12.org
www.asdk12.org/MiddleLink/LA/

Tip #57: End-of-Year Quilt

It's the end of another school year. I know you are busy issuing student fines, finding library books, and completing inventories. On top of all of that, you still have lesson plans to do and student behavior to deal with. Last year I sent out an end-of-the-year email tip describing a triangle project that makes a great bulletin board display for ending the year but also can serve as a welcome bulletin board for the 2004-2005 school year. See tip #30 in the *Teaching Middle School Language Arts* binder for easy access to the idea and the accompanying worksheets.

This year you might like to try something different. Many of you might be familiar with the Literacy Quilt idea. This is an excellent "after reading" activity that engages students because of the artwork embedded within it. Don't panic! It does not involve fabric and sewing otherwise I couldn't have done it!. It is completely a pencil and paper activity. Attached is [a copy of the directions](#) and an [evaluation rubric](#) for you to use.

How about tweaking this idea and using it as an End-of-the-Year Quilt? If each student completed one paper quilt, you could display them adjacent to each other on a central bulletin board creating a team quilt with memories from the year. The quilt requires that each student complete five squares reflecting on specific prompts. The alternating remaining four squares should be a repeated quilt design to unify the project.

When I have done this in the past, I have pulled quilting books from the library in order to expose students to the wide variety of artistic patterns. Students need to choose a pattern or design one that they really like because they end up reproducing it four times for the quilt. One of my favorite books is a nonfiction one called *Eight Hands Round* by Ann Whitford Paul. It is an alphabet book introducing 26 historic quilting designs. The following is a link to amazon.com about the book. The page highlighted is "A is for anvil." Goldenview has this book as well as many elementary schools.

www.amazon.com/gp/reader/0064434648/ref=sib_dp_pt/102-9286651-1808130#reader-page

The main focus of the quilt is the five squares that students respond to. Because this is an end-of-the-year quilt, the following prompts might be useful. You can also broaden the scope of the quilt and make it more of a schoolwide memory in which case you can ask students to select their own five classes to represent. It is also fun to ask students to reserve a square for advice/motto to next year's students. Students must be told to be positive and do look at their work carefully. Disgruntled eighth graders can find this the perfect opportunity to be mean-spirited.



- In square #1, sketch something that you will always remember from your language arts class.
- In square #2, sketch something that you will always remember from your math class.
- In square #3, include a photograph of yourself, your autograph and the year you will graduate from high school.
- In square #4, sketch something that you will always remember from your science class.



1	A	2
A	3	A
4	A	5



Literacy Quilt

Use symbols to represent the...

1. Setting
2. Main character
3. Climax or favorite scene and title/author of book
4. Significant quote
5. One word theme embedded into a graphic

Each square with a letter should have a quilt design. Repeating it 4 times will make your finished product look like a quilt.

1	A	2
A	3	A
4	A	5



Literacy Quilt

Use symbols to represent the...

1. Setting
2. Main character
3. Climax or favorite scene and title/author of book
4. Significant quote
5. One word theme embedded into a graphic

Each square with a letter should have a quilt design. Repeating it 4 times will make your finished product look like a quilt.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Requirements	Yes	No
Setting (square #1)		
Main character (square #2)		
Favorite scene (square #3)		
Title and author (square #3)		
Note & quote (square #4)		
Theme & graphic (square #5)		
Quilt design (4 repetitions)		
Neatness/colored pencils		
Correct spelling		

LITERACY QUILT Evaluation



Comments: _____

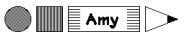
Project Grade

Name: _____

Date: _____

Requirements	Yes	No
Setting (square #1)		
Main character (square #2)		
Favorite scene (square #3)		
Title and author (square #3)		
Note & quote (square #4)		
Theme & graphic (square #5)		
Quilt design (4 repetitions)		
Neatness/colored pencils		
Correct spelling		

LITERACY QUILT Evaluation



Comments: _____

Project Grade