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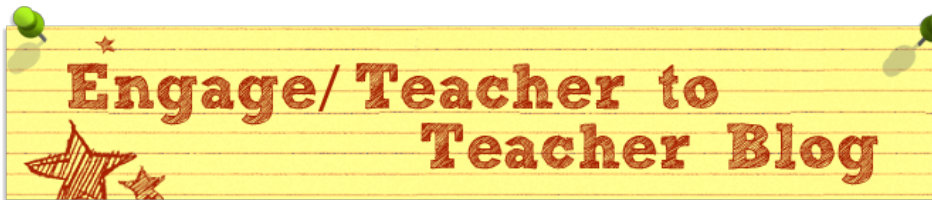
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Member of the Month—August 2012: Melrose Dockery



Melrose Dockery IRA Member Since: 2010

Melrose Dockery teaches grades one through nine at Mount Salem Primary and Junior High in St. James, Jamaica. She has been the master teacher for literacy at the school since 2007.

In April, you posted on Facebook, "I am an empowered literacy leader thanks to IRA." How has being a member of IRA helped you achieve this leadership?"

Yes, I stated that I am an empowered literacy leader and I must give credit to the International Reading Association for having made me realize this dream. This association has been a tower of strength through the publication of its research-based literature, which includes a multiplicity of cutting edge strategies tailored to meet the learning styles of students.



THE READING TEACHER is at the heart of all my literature, language, and research activities. I actually get to know each publication from cover to cover as I find time to read while I wait. This might be at a doctor's office, the hair dresser, or while travelling.

The rich vocabulary used in RT fascinates and compels me to transmit the knowledge I gained from it to my school and, in extension, the wider community.

Your school, Mount Salem Primary and Junior High, got local media attention for your celebration of International Literacy Day. In what literacy activities did you and your class take part to observe and celebrate the holiday?

As the Master Teacher for literacy at Mount Salem Primary and Junior High, I had the opportunity of inviting persons from various organizations across St. James and adjoining parishes to participate in our celebration as guest readers.

The guest readers were ushered in by literacy monitors to the grade of their choice after signing the guest book, which was provided at a literacy booth. In the literacy booth, monitors wore sashes that stated their position.

A concert was held in the auditorium, with stakeholders dramatizing stories highlighting the importance of literacy. Presentations of certificates were made to young authors, whose work was placed on display. The pieces included creative writing, journal writing, story transformation, songs, art, and dub poetry.

As a literacy educator, how do you motivate kids to want to read?

As a literacy leader, I motivate kids to read through the use of the environmental print, which I have proven to be a powerful teaching tool. This strategy was taught to me during my earlier years at teachers' college and was reinforced several years later by a tutor at an IRA congress held in Jamaica and led by our International Reading Consultant, Dr. Elaine Carter.

The environmental print stimulates students' interest in print. It breaks through curricular boundaries and cultivates

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