

What would be the advice to other administrators you would give to those considering to participate or not to participate?

I would offer to chat with any administrator that is considering participating in this program. I believe that it is important, and that students will appreciate it beginning in schools where it may not have been already up and running.

What has been your favourite Forest of Reading moment?

There are so many that come to mind, but I think back to an email that I received from a parent of a student who was struggling academically at the time. The email went on to explain the frustrations of dealing with the achievement and resulting esteem issues that went along with it. It then explained that the student had come home with a few books and that they had rekindled their connection and the student became excited again to work through some of the challenges, and turned a corner that year. This parent actually followed up several years later with an email to tell me the progress that their child had made in the years that followed. That was powerful for me to see that a parent recognized that something as simple as a good book could allow for a reconnection and change of perspective.

What has been your most memorable Forest of Reading book?

Wow, there are so many great ones that I have read, it is hard to narrow it down to one. The one that does stick out however is *Zorgamazoo* by Robert Paul Weston. It was one of the first years that we began the program and I later learned that it was the author's first novel. It is a book that I absolutely felt connected to as it is written in rhyme and is something that I would not normally pick up. I then read it cover to cover in one sitting and then shared it with my teacher-librarian who, leery at first, began to read it to her Grade 4 class and they too fell in love with the writing style and storyline of a strange connection between Katrina and Mortimer.

If you could describe the Forest of Reading in one word, what would it be?

Unique.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I believe that the Forest of Reading program should be a part of every school and community in Canada. ■