3rd Grade Library Lesson: Plagiarism and a Bibliography

Objectives:

Students will be introduced to the words plagiarism and bibliography.

Students will understand why a bibliography is necessary in research papers.

Students will highlight, from a title page, the necessary components to a bibliography.

Students will create a bibliography entry for nonfiction books.

Time Allotment: 35 minutes

Common Core Standards:

   RI3.5 Use text features and search tools to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
   RI3.6 Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of the text
   W3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
   W3.8 Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

Information Literacy Standards (AASL Standards):

   1.3.1 Respect copyright/intellectual property rights of creators and producers.
   1.3.3 Follow ethical and legal guidelines in gathering and using information.

Required Resources:

   When Marion Copied by Brook Berg
   Bibliography outline
   Any nonfiction book
   Vocabulary words printed with definition and pictures
Lesson Breakdown:

5 minutes

Students will be introduced to the words and definitions of plagiarism and bibliography.

10 minutes

Students will listen to the book *When Marion Copied* by Brook Berg along with discussion throughout with whole group and partners.

*What did you notice about both papers?*
*How do you think the author of a book feels if you plagiarized their work, why?*
*Why do you believe someone would plagiarize?*
*Summarizing is one way to make sure you are not plagiarizing from a source can you think of other strategies you could do to make sure you did not plagiarize?*

20 minutes

Each student will receive a copy of a title page from the same book. The instructor will use an elmo, so that all students can see the instructors page, and together they will highlight each piece of the
necessary components from the bibliography page they must fill out, provided by their classroom teacher. These components are: author, year of book publication, title of books, city of publisher, and publisher name.

Assessment:
Individually the students will complete an entry for a bibliography page using the title page of another book given by the instructor. Each component will count as a point creating 6 total points. The student must have a 5 or above to show proficiency in this skill. If that is not occurring then the student will be worked with on an individual bases to understand the parts of a bibliography page in a more complete manner. Also students will, in their own words write about what plagiarism is and why a bibliography page is important. Their answers should reflect key points for each term. The instructor is looking for plagiarism being a direct copy from a resource and that a bibliography is the place where the resources you have used in your paper get credited.

Assessment Results:
After looking at each students completed assessment 100% of the students filled out their bibliography portion with a 5 or higher. For the open ended questions 100% of the students correctly identified the
word plagiarism. However, on the second question asking about why a bibliography page is needed only 50% of the students completed the question with a satisfactory answer.

The student came in with having no background knowledge or experience with filling out a bibliography form. Based off the assessment students now have a foundational working knowledge of how to complete a bibliography page. The students also know what plagiarism is, but the students still are grasping with the purpose of having a bibliography. I will need to go back and discuss and emphasize more of the reason why bibliography is important. When doing the lesson I knew that my time was limited and I did not spend as much time as this as needed. Overall, the students did a wonderful job of taking in the information presented in the lesson and applying that knowledge.

Collaboration with Teacher

The third grade teacher approached the librarian and myself, two weeks prior to this lesson, about her need for the students to understand how to fill out a bibliography page. Her class was in the process of creating presidential biography reports and would soon be at the point that a bibliography would be necessary. I asked a few questions about the student’s abilities and prior knowledge with this subject and found they had not had any experience with citing their resources. A few days after this meeting I e-mailed her my lesson plan idea to make sure it would meet her and her student’s needs. The teacher approved the plan. The lesson was presented and managed by myself while my supervising librarian took pictures and made observations of the class.

Reflection

This lesson took place during the 3rd graders normal library time which meant that there also had to be time for check out to occur as well. Knowing this required very precise time management and realistic expectations about what could actually be accomplished in this short time frame. If believe this lesson plan was planned and implement in a pacing that suited the kids and resulted in a positive outcome based off their assessments. If I had the chance to extend this lesson I would have the students look at various nonfiction books and practice filling out a bibliography page because I was conscious to choose books that had easily identified and marked publishing companies, copyright dates and city of publication. However, many books have these components and they are harder to find. Presenting the students with various nonfiction books would help them practice their skills and challenge them to find the various components on books that may be more difficult to find each needed piece of information.

Also, as stated above, based off the assessment half the students are still not sure WHY bibliographies are needed. If I redid this exact lesson I would spend more time on discussing this point. If I were to take the results of this lesson I would make sure that my next class time with them I engaged the students in a more thorough discussion on the why of bibliographies.
NAME:______________________________

Bibliography/Reference Page

______________________, ________.  (_______).
Author’s last name  Authors first initial  Year of Publication

______________________________.
Title of Book

______________________________:  ____________.
City of Publisher  Publisher Name

Answer the following questions:

1) Explain the word plagiarism.

2) Why do you need to have a bibliography/reference page?
plagiarism:
Using another person’s work as your own.
bibliography: A list of materials that were used or referenced in a person’s paper.