

FACT SHEET

for Mysteries in the Middle Workshop

Introduction

Mysteries in the Middle (MnM) is a dynamic reading workshop for middle school students and their families.

This 2 ½ hour training is a collaborative outreach by the Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! initiative, the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, and the University of West Florida.

Purpose

This workshop will:

- Teach parents how to set their children up for successful reading practice at home.
- "Clue" parents and students into a set of key reading strategies that strategic readers employ.
- Provide a learning experience that middle school students view as "cool," parents see as entertaining and informative, and schools value as a worthwhile effort.
- Promote positive partnerships between families and schools.

Workshop Theme

Mysteries in the Middle (MnM) is an engaging reading workshop for middle school parents, teachers, and students. It brings schools and families together to actively participate in a fun but meaningful learning experience. Participants are welcomed to the workshop's "Hollywood sound stage" where, for the next 2 1/2 hours, they watch and take part in the mock filming of a made-for-TV pre-teen movie thriller entitled "Mysteries in the Middle". As the plot thickens, clues about the mysterious disappearance of Hometown Middle School's mascot are revealed as participants take part in reading strategy rehearsals. When it's discovered that the last page of the script is missing, the participants try to solve the caper using their newfound reading skills.

This workshop's mystery-movie theme not only appeals to pre-teens in this age group, but it also serves the trainers as a clever vehicle for investigating the "invisible" mental strategies that successful readers employ. These strategies are a mystery to struggling readers in middle school, since they often don't realize that good readers do more than simply read the words on a page. By the end of the workshop, both students and parents are clued in to strategic reading, and they celebrate their success during a "wrap" party, when several "Oscars" are awarded.

Related Trainings

A similar reading workshop for families of elementary students is also offered called Families Building Better Readers. A special version of FBBR for Spanish-speaking parents called Edificando Mejores Lectores en Familia that was specifically developed to meet the special needs of Florida's migrant worker families is available as well.



If you have any questions about the Mysteries in the Middle Workshop or for information on family and community involvement, please contact:

Florida Department of Education
Bureau of Family and Community Outreach
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 544
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400
Phone: (850) 245-0847 or Suncom 205-0847, Fax: (850) 245-0849
<http://www.fldoe.org/family/>
www.fldoe.org

About the Trainer



Workshop Sites

- Mysteries in the Middle workshops will be conducted all year long in communities around the state.
- Statewide train-the-trainer workshops will be provided at statewide meetings and conferences.
- Train-the-trainer workshops will be provided annually.

For workshop times and locations, please visit the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach website at: <http://www.fl DOE.org/family>.



About the Trainer

MnM training is provided by Dr. Angela Martin, University of West Florida (UWF). Dr. Martin works as an educational consultant, creating educational materials and conducting dynamic workshops across the United States. She is an experienced school teacher with advanced degrees earned in Curriculum and Instruction, Education, and Reading. Martin is well-known and liked by parents and teachers whose important roles she values being a mother of four children herself.

Dr. Angela Martin
U.W.F.
Building 85
11000 University Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32514
amartin@uwf.edu



Dr. Angela Martin and Family: