

# **Outside Their Window - See It, Appreciate It, Share It Worldwide With GiggLeIT!**

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## **Workshop description**

Your school library becomes a creative hotspot as you use the GiggLeIT Project's free resources to showcase your students' writing for an international audience, introduce stories and poems written by children in other countries, and collaborate with teachers within existing curriculum frameworks to enhance global understanding at your school.

Students share their world with peers in other lands through their writing, photography, and art when teacher-librarians use GiggLeIT Project lesson plans to foster creativity and authentic learning while encouraging positive expressions of children's own personal knowledge and interests.

Works from each registered class are displayed on their own webpage on the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL) website with the school's GiggLeIT page which includes student-written information about their region, community, and school.

Project lesson plans range from fractured fairy tales to poetry to persuasive writing, encompassing English/Language Arts and Social Studies in the academic curriculum, as well as cooperation, problem-solving, persistence, understanding others, and working together in the personal/social skills realm. Students' metacognition (thinking about their thinking) is enhanced as they provide glossary definitions for culturally specific words used in their writing.

While primarily aimed at students in middle grades, the GiggLeIT Project is easily adapted for younger gifted students, older special needs students, and English-language learners of any age, since writing in small groups is an often-selected option.

The IASL2016 hands-on workshop covered current GiggLeIT Spotlight Projects and annual theme, effective methods for students to use when selecting a few options from many choices (such as picking 3 GiggLeCritters as mascots for their school page from the 30 in GiggLeTown, including the Japan GiggLeCritic), as well as cyber-safety concerns.

Attendees had an opportunity to try out the 2016 theme projects - renaming Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to reflect local culture and writing a haiku about the view through their window - and could share their creations with the workshop group.

The GiggLeIT Project for global student writing through school libraries is sponsored by IASL - Children's and Young Adult Literature Special Interest Group. All GiggLeIT lesson plans, registration, and online hosting of school and class pages are provided free of charge. Presentation slides for this workshop are available at <http://iasl-online.org/advocacy/giggleit>. The GiggLeIT Project team may be contacted at [IASL.Giggle.IT@gmail.com](mailto:IASL.Giggle.IT@gmail.com).

**Keywords:** writing, creativity, student-centered activity, personal knowledge, teamwork

## **Biographical notes**

Katy MANCK is a retired academic/corporate/school librarian and currently serves as Treasurer of the International Association of School Librarianship (IASL). She recommends young adult books beyond bestsellers on her BooksYALove.com website, plus books for babies, kids, tweens, and teens at [www.abookandahug.com](http://www.abookandahug.com). Katy earned her MLS and School Library Media Specialist Certification from the University of North Texas, where she has served as adjunct professor. She is a founding member of the GiggleIT Project and promotes IASL around the world as well as in her home state of Texas, USA.

Kasey GARRISON is a lecturer with the Teacher Librarianship Team in the School of Information Studies at Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus in New South Wales, Australia. Prior to this, Kasey worked in primary school libraries and also teaching Spanish and students with special needs in the United States. Her research interests focus on the issues surrounding culturally diverse children's and young adult literature as well as the use of guided inquiry in school libraries. Kasey is the newest member of the GiggleIT Project team.