



Monarch Publishers

# Crystal Ball O'Connor, PhD

## “Piecing Together a Writer’s Quilt” Audience: Grades 4 and 5

### **Focus:**

Students will understand and identify voice in what they read, and make connections with an author and their lives as readers and writers. They will practice what is taught and use it in an independent context. This approach increases the likelihood that students will use what they learn in their own reading and in the independent work of publishing their own writing. The program is designed to engage students through read aloud, group discussion, guided writing activities, and incorporating the arts.

### **Suggested Duration:**

3-5 days

### **Common Core State Standards Addressed:**

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** CC.4.RL.1, 2 and 3;  
CC.4.W.3, 4 and 5; CC.4.SL.1 and 4;  
CC.4.L.3.a; CC.4.L.5.a; CC.4.L.6

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** CC.5.RL.1, 2 and 4;  
CC.5.W.3, 4 and 5; CC.5.SL.1 and 4;  
CC.5.L.3.a; CC.5.L.5.a; CC.5.L.6

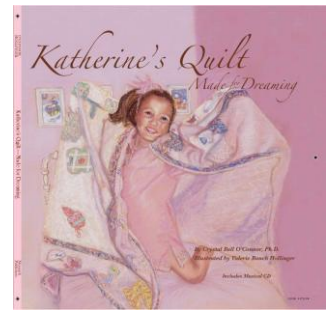
### **Lesson/Activity:**

First, the author will present her book Katherine’s Quilt Made for Dreaming with writing lessons to help students understand how to identify voice in what they read. Students will study Katherine’s personal belongings to practice observation and to make inferences about the character. Students will write to describe the character. Students will then write to describe items of importance, replacing Katherine’s things with personal items of their own. Students will draft and revise a piece of writing describing a keepsake or heirloom that gives them a sense of belonging. Students will learn how to revise for the purpose of strengthening voice. The author will conduct lessons based on Common Core State Standards to help students strengthen voice in what they write, demonstrating ways in which voice is connected to descriptive and figurative language, vivid detail, rich vocabulary, sensory words, dialogue, and meaningful endings.

*“Dr. Crystal Ball O’Connor provides one of the most outstanding programs I have ever seen! As she weaves together literature, the arts, and writing across content areas, it is difficult to tell which are more thrilled, the students or the teachers!” Joan Beth Page, Assistant Superintendent, Dillon District One*

### **For the Teachers:**

Teachers will develop voice in their own writing so that they will be more comfortable in teaching voice to their students. Teachers will gain a better understanding of Common Core State Standards and Six Traits of Writing. In addition, teachers will gain further understanding of the writing rubric for the PASS test and how to use the Time to Write Checklist as a student self-assessment tool.



### **Supporting Material:**

Katherine’s Quilt Made for Dreaming, a read along music CD, standards-based writing and arts integration activities, and references for supporting informational text to use in the classroom.



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