### Project Report

**Project title:** Reluctant to Nobel Writers

**Project description:** A series of narrative writing focused on boys using male mentors from wider school community.

**Person responsible for project:** Helen Sturman

**School, region, diocese:** Beckom Public School

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**Number of students, teachers, parents, other community members directly involved:**
- 7 students, 2 teachers, 2 University student teachers, 1 community member, 1 parent

**Intended literacy and/or numeracy outcomes:**
- RS2.7 3.7 Discusses how writers relate to their readers in different ways, how they create a variety of worlds through language and how they use language to achieve a wide range of purposes.
- WS2.9 3.9 Produces a wide range of well-structured and well-presented literary and factual texts for a wide variety of purposes and audiences using increasingly challenging topics, ideas, issues and written language features.
- TS2.3 3.3 Discusses ways in which spoken language differs from written language and how spoken language varies according to different contexts.

**Feedback about making grants available for such projects:**
Wonderful idea. We used it to great advantage. It provided us with the funding to ensure trainee teachers could be involved with the classroom; community members and parents were able to come in and be part of the boys’ literacy development.
Reluctant to Nobel Writers

Literacy Days at Beckom Public School

Wednesday 13th August 2008, (9.30am-1.00pm)
Tuesday 2nd September 2008 (9.30am-3.30pm)
Morning tea and lunch will be provided on both days.

Program Outcomes
- Male students become confident in their ability to write narratives.
- Reluctant boy writers experience enjoyment and success in written activities.
- To continue having days which focus on reluctant boy writers at least twice each Term.

Targeted audience
5 boys Years 2-6
2 girls will attend – female teachers will focus on them
4 male mentors (one community member, one parent, two CSU teacher students) will be in attendance that will be focusing on the 5 boys.

Project Description:
A creative writing program which focuses on reluctant boy writers.
Male mentors will come into classroom to work with the boys so the focus is on boys’ learning styles.
- Boys can be very creative but research shows they exist in the NOW, that is, for them to write creatively we need to build up the energy and complete the task NOW.
- Boys need to talk about what they’re about to write. It’s a process of getting the OK from his peers. It is also his way of getting his head around his thoughts and giving them approval.
- Boys hate wasted effort. They need to write their story and see the finished product.
- Boys are pragmatic!
- Boys crave male role models.

This program will approach the writing tasks in this fashion: build up the energy, write and publish all in the given time frame. On the full day we will film one story as a play.

Male Mentors
Male mentors will work with boys by generating ideas with discussions and motivation and encouraging during the writing phase: give suggestions when students come to a halt; write if their hands are sore; listen to their thoughts; give approval to their thoughts as well as direct their thoughts. We need to remember these boys will be making stories about what they know, from their experiences at home and at school. We need to accept the content boys write about will be their things - not horses or flowers! (Maybe guns, bikes, bottoms and farting!)
Outline of sessions
The day will progress along the following outline:

- Ice breakers
- Get the boys interested by talking about movies they may have seen lately
- Brainstorm all the types of stories they can think of, e.g. fantasy, romance, science fiction, horror, action, mystery, thriller, crime, war, sport, mockumentary, comedy-horror, comedy-romance, science fiction
- Brainstorm movies we have seen or know about that fit into each category.
- Vote as a group which one we’ll write today-process of elimination
- Once decided, revise the structure of a narrative: using orientation, complication, resolution
- Jointly construct/ dot point a story in the chosen genre - we’ll write up the setting, the characters, write the plot in dot point and decide on a resolution.
- Everyone will now write their own version (while students are writing, mentors will help generate ideas, keep the student on track, write words for boys if necessary, listen to their ideas, help the boys organise their thoughts. If boys are managing unaided, write your own version which the boys will love to hear at end of session.
- As boys exist in the NOW, we only use a short period after recess if necessary to finish, then we will start listening to stories.
- On the full day, they will decide on one story to make into a play which we’ll video. Film is the Literature of our age!

Have fun and enjoy helping the boys be creative and to write!
by Zach Griffin of Year 2

There was a young Negro boy who was sleep-walking at lunch time and a villain called Simon and they were in a park in Hobart. This park was the most popular park in Tasmania. It had a football oval and a pair of soccer nets and also a rugby oval and the city’s water supply.

Simon was a short male and was the fattest in the world with a hairy chest. He was also a mean angry villain.

The villain wanted to find the key for the water supply because he wanted to poison everyone. Suddenly the Negro boy ran into a tree and woke up and the villain was standing right in front of him.

He said “You know where the key is, don’t you?”

“Yes” said the boy.

Suddenly a fox terrier jumped out of a fox hole and onto Simon’s back. This fox terrier could identify mean people and understand English.

Simon believed once everyone was poisoned they’d die and he would take all their money. The dog thinks I must find the keys and hide them somewhere else. So he does that. The dog goes to the police. He barks at the police so they try to catch him. He runs to Simon and the Negro who are still arguing under a tree.

The terrible terrier arrived with the police - leaping onto Simon’s back. Simon was taken to jail for 20 years.

Terrible terrier became a hero and was treated with the best care by the Negro boy. After that the key was held under great care by the terrier. In fact he became known as the “Key Guardian”.

![Image of a dog]
In 1987 a slim, middle aged lady named Mary Oxford had just moved into a tattered flat in central London from Australia four years ago. Two months later she fell in love with a butcher who had just moved in to another flat three blocks away. Mary had seen this man once down the street. She had talked to him once or twice and even had a cup of tea or coffee with him. Soon after he asked her to marry him. She was ecstatic! But letters were never returned when her well to do parents wrote to her from Toorak, Melbourne. In the chilly winter of late 1988 an attractive women parked her Ferrari outside a butcher’s shop in Covent Garden. Her name was Alice, she had just started a job in nearby Sandringham. She needed meat and cheese for her lunches and was surprised by the friendliness of the man behind the counter. Her parents were puzzled when they never received word from Alice after she had moved to London.

Four months later a businessman was driving on a suburban street just outside of London. Bob Henry had been an Olympic hurdler but had eaten way too many hamburgers since then. He had a lovely little Jack Russell beside him in the car, called Barnie, the car needed fuel. He decided to pull into a Woolworths Fuel Service Station to get some fuel. It had been hailing and not too many cars were about. After he had fuelled up he toddled in to the servo counter and got yet another hamburger while Barnie stretched his legs by chasing a cat around the corner. An hour later Bob walked out of the fuel station to go to the toilet. He heard a horn and thought that it was just some more idiots coming in to fuel up. When he got out of the toilet he had a sickening feeling in his gut when he couldn’t find his car. He called for Barnie “Here Boy!!”

He flew out from around the corner with a cat’s tail in his mouth and dropped it at his masters feet. “Where is the car boy?” His master muttered. Bob was getting seriously worried now, there were worried thoughts streaming through his mind. Where is my car? Could it have been stolen? Where is it? Barnie barked he was sniffing a tyre mark on the road. “What is it boy?” exclaimed Bob. Bob pleaded with a waiting taxi to help him find his beloved car. After a lot of searching the driver eventually said that “it was time for him to go home” So Bob told him to “drop him off at a cheap caravan park.” He had to have a dirty old caravan because all of the luxurious caravans were booked out.

Bob tried hard to concentrate on the news. The news reporter was doing a documentary on a butcher from central London whose name was James Adams. The reporter said “this man was a serial killer and had murdered two rich women after marrying one of them.”

The next morning Bob took Barnie for a walk down the street. He walked past a service station and saw a car with his number plate and the same dint in the boot as his. He hid behind a dumpster in amazement as he watched a man hop out of his car. He angrily stared at this man and when he saw his face he realised that it was the man that he had seen on the news the night before. Barnie barked and ran out from behind the dumpster and with a huge leap, jumped in the car. Bob had no choice, he ran over to the car and also jumped in because he didn’t want to lose his faithful
dog. Bob sped off and left the startled man in dust. The angry man suddenly pulled out a 12mm pistol and fired a shot into Bob’s car’s tyre, it exploded into strips of rubber.
Twenty kilometres down the road at a quiet corner Bob stopped to change the ruined tyre. He patted Barnie on the head, “thanks mate, I owe you one”, he sighed.
Barnie sniffed the air and quickly jumped up into the boot. The floor mat was covered in blood stains and smelt sickeningly. Lifting the mat he found a Ferrari key ring and a tattered tweed skirt. That was enough for Bob, he freaked out!!!
A gas truck pulled up and let a man out on the other side of the road, he had a pistol, OH no it was James!!! Bob dived into the drain and fumbled for his mobile phone as he crawled under the road and dialled 000, while pulling a log into the drain opening to block the entrance, with his loyal dog Barnie by his side.
Just as James found him a siren sounded and the police vehicle screeched to a stop, the policeman arrested James and took him away in handcuffs.
Bob and Barnie were over the moon when they discovered that the police had rewarded them two million dollars for the arrest of the Greatest Serial Killer of all time, James Adams. To celebrate Bob and Barnie shared a hamburger (with the lot) and talked all through the night about how they were going to spend their money.