

WW Newsletter #88 -- The Real Spelling Gallery And More: Invaluable & Inspiring SWI Resources To End Another School Year

June 5, 2017



Headlines

- *Real Spelling Gallery films available for download now! (Only for a limited time from [Real Spelling](#))*
- *A [MUST SEE VIDEO](#) of Mary Beth Steven's Grade 5 students reflecting on their learning with orthography this year*
- *Ann Whiting's Gr. 7 post "Refugee's and Arrivals"*
- *Three new SWI investigations on Real Spellers to explore*
- *New SWI page on the Nueva School website*

Hello all,

Our Australian friends are in the thick of their school year, but most of you are in that crazy final week or two of school, and some are already packing up classrooms for the summer. Normally I would not post a Newsletter at this time of year, but the items above are too rich to ignore -- and this first one one is time sensitive.

Real Spelling Gallery Tutorial Films -- act soon to download content!

Those who frequent the [Real Spelling website](#) will have noticed that the archive of tutorial films in the Real Spelling Gallery has been slated to be taken down for some time now. The company that hosted those videos was sold, and the new company made changes that doesn't accommodate the videos properly.

Upcoming WW Workshops

- **June 26-30: SWI Nueva Institute** near San Francisco. **June 26-27 (Part 1), June 28-30 (Part 2)**
Part 2 includes *special presentations by Nueva teachers* teaching in early literacy, elementary and middle school contexts.
Click [HERE](#) for a flyer and information. For more Information and registration [HERE](#).
- **August 17-18, Edmonton:** 2-day SWI workshop hosted by Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium. Details and register [HERE](#).
- **August 21-25, Edmonton:** 5-Day SWI university course at the University of Alberta. Open to undergrad, graduate students and non-students. Details to be announced. [Email Pete](#) to inquire about this exciting opportunity. See the course outline [HERE](#).
- **Sept 18-21, Japan:** Workshop at Saint Maur International School (Contact [Pete](#) if you might be interested in a workshop just before or just after these dates in this region.)
- **October, 19-20, Bay Area:** Pete presenting at [Innovative Learning Conference](#) hosted by [The Nueva School](#).
- **October 25, Chicago:** Pete presenting a Keynote, break-out session and workshop at Everyone Reading Illinois conference.
- **November 17-18, Lausanne, Switzerland:** Public WordWorks SWI workshop hosted by International School of Lausanne. Details TBA. Email Jonathan Twigg, <JTwigg@isl.ch>

However, Michel has generously decided to make all of those films available for download for a limited time!

If you go to [THIS LINK](#) you will see a message from the “Old Grouch” and a link to a dropbox page where you can **download all the videos**.



These films are a true treasure for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of orthography over time. I can't overstate the value of these references. I encourage you to download them asap whether or not you have time to study them now.

Support Real Spelling with a donation. PLEASE note the "[BENEFACTION](#)" button on the download page with a suggestion for a donation for these resources. This archive includes over 80 films, each of which represent hours and hours of work. There is simply no richer, more accessible reference for deep understanding of orthographic concepts. To make these free for download is a remarkable gesture of support to our ever-growing community.

Whether or not you have been working directly with Real Spelling, the community working with SWI simply would not exist without the tireless - mostly unpaid - work of Real Spelling.

Consider this partial list of the range of sources building on the foundational work of Old Grouch:

- [Beyond the Word](#) (Lyn Anderson)
- [Skot Caldwell](#) ([Gr. 1 blog](#) and [Gr. 4/5 blog](#))
- [The Dyslexia Training Institute](#),
- [Learning About Spelling](#) (Sue Hegland)
- [LEX](#) (Gina Cooke)
- [Mary Beth Steven](#) (Grade 5 blog)
- [Jen Munnerlyn](#) (Gr 1-5 blog)
- [A Place for Words](#) (Fiona Hamilton)
- [Neil Ramsden](#) ([Word Microscope](#), [Mini-Matrix Maker](#), [Word Searcher](#))
- [Rebecca Loveless](#)
- [Real Spellers](#) (Matt Berman)
- [Sound Literacy](#) ([Kathy Penn's blog](#) and [iPad app](#))
- [Structured Word Inquiry Facebook Group](#) (Lisa Barnett)
- [Ann Whiting](#) ([Gr. 7 Word Nerderly blog](#))
- [WordWorks Literacy Centre](#)

I hope our community takes this opportunity to offer a small token of our appreciation for what we have gained from all the work Real Spelling has done for us.

2) A new brilliant video from Grade 5 public school students reflecting on learning from orthography

Click [HERE](#) for the utterly inspiring video of Mary Beth Steven's students reflecting on their year of learning through SWI. They make a clear case for why children deserve word-level literacy instruction that is guided by the scientific study of how orthography works to represent the meanings of words.

I was so moved by these students that I embedded their video at the very top of my [WordWorks](#) page.



Consider this statement that starts of the video:

“I liked when we learned, like, about the meaning of different bases, ‘cause then I kept noticing it in different words and then I kind of knew what the word meant if I didn’t know what it meant [before].”

It is striking how often students enthusiastically emphasize their interest in studying etymology.

“When we’re studying words, we sometimes -- or always -- learn the, the history of the word. How it was made, and what happened with the word ever since it was created to the modern times.”

See [the video](#) for these and many more pearls of wisdom from these orthographic scholars.

Ann Whiting’s Word Nerdy post “Refugee’s and Arrivals”

I see more and more interest from middle school for SWI. There is no better spot to explore what is possible in terms of learning about our world and expressing our learning with the help of orthographic study than Ann

Whiting’s Gr 7 blog. I recommend taking the time to explore this latest gem of a topical post. Click [HERE](#).

Three Recent Real Spellers Posts

Ellen Meyer, an SWI trail-blazer in a Chicago Public School just posted an amazing document in which she recounts an investigation of <perpendicular> with a Grade 2 class. Highly recommended!

Grade 2 Exploration of "perpendicular"

Details
Written by Ellen Meyer
Last Updated: 02 June 2017

Click [HERE](#) for a PDF of our investigation of <perpendicular>. Here is the first page. We would love to hear any comments you have.

It started out as math and ended up as architecture with accounting surprisingly mixed into the discussion! What word did we explore? <perpendicular>.

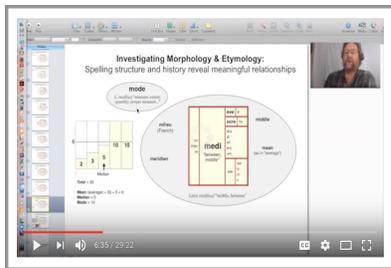
Click [HERE](#) for this Real Spellers post where you can download the full document.

Inspired by Ellen, I put together documents that grew out of two different email correspondences with teachers in the last week or two. I love that these teachers are going so deep so near the end of the year.

One document grew out of a correspondence with Lisa Marlow at the [International School of Lausanne](#) (Where I will be doing a [public workshop Nov 17-18](#) next fall!) Her class was studying <adaptation> in a science unit. There is so much to learn about this concept -- and investigating orthography -- from this investigation.

The other document grew out of a correspondence with Anne Rénes, a Grade 4 teacher at the [Dresden International School](#). I love the discoveries their study of <competition> provoked. Aside from the structure of this word, they came to questions about a potential relationship between <compete> and <repeat>.

These investigations on [Real Spellers](#) are rich ways to revisit the nature of **etymological** and **morphological** relations and how to interpret the information offered in Etymonline.



I can't over-emphasize the importance of understanding these concepts that underly the "structure and meaning test." If all this is relatively new to you, I recommend watching [THIS VIDEO](#) (left).

[THIS PAGE](#) on my WordWorks website also addresses these ideas in detail.

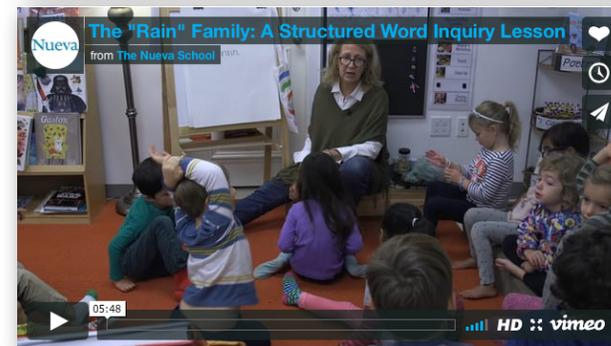
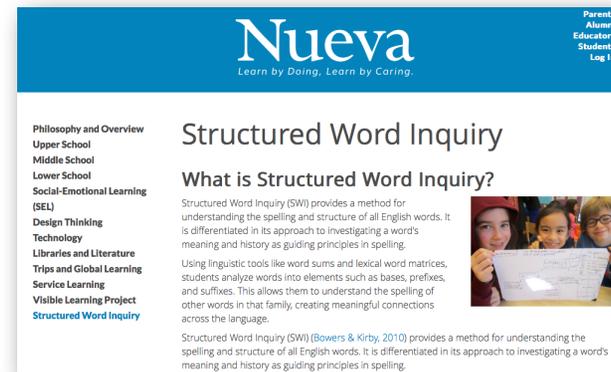
To really get a better handle on Etymology and reading Etymonline, see [THIS VIDEO](#) in which I seek clarity on another investigation with Etymonline author, Douglas Harper.

New SWI page on the Nueva School Website

[The Nueva School](#) has become a launching pad for SWI learning in the Bay Area -- and around the world. They recently revamped their website, and I'm very pleased that "Structured Word Inquiry" is now formally listed under their "Academics" menu with an excellent page describing this aspect of learning at the Nueva School.

Click [HERE](#) to see that page with images, links and videos. Carolee's Pre-School video on that page is a must! (See screen shots of part of the Nueva page and Carolee's video below.)

And finally, thanks for another amazing school year with SWI. It's always hard for me to believe the breadth and depth of learning that has grown since I happened across a 45-minute Real Spelling presentation in Bangkok in 2001. And there are no signs of going backwards.



Peter Bowers, May 5, 2017

"Nothing motivates like understanding"