

Testimonial

Drumming For Your Life

From: Diane Collins
IDEC Teacher
Grades 6 - 8
Hollenbeck Middle School
cell 562-705-2468

The *Drumming for your Life* program instilled a confidence in my students that was seen in their reading improvement and in their awareness of the rhythm of language. This unique program helped students coordinate the energy and flow of language with the energy of their bodies. For struggling readers, being able to drum the syllables of a word and really think about the energy and sound of language stayed with them throughout all aspects of instruction. Not only did the *Reading and Rhythm* program help students read individual words faster but it helped them recognize the rhythm of whole sentences which translated into better student writing and their ability to sequence the order of words. That is, if a student's words within a sentence were not in the right order then they were able to drum the sentence and hear it. The *Reading and Rhythm* program also helped build students' vocabulary by trimming definitions to the core. Drumming out the rhythm of the word and meaning helped students remember the definition. Most importantly, the *Reading and Rhythm* program gave students a sense of focus and direction for "moving through" or continuing the reading of a sentence. Finishing reading a sentence and being able to focus their energy on comprehension not only improved their reading and self-esteem but gave students a reading technique that they own and use wherever the ideas in stories take them.

