

**Deborah Kelt**  
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## **EDUCATION**

University of Texas at Austin, 2008, M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction

University of Texas at Austin, 1987, B.A. with honors in American Studies

National Writing Project Teacher Consultant, 2006

New Jersey Writing Project Trainer, 2005

Texas Certification, English/Language Arts/Reading, 2005, 8-12

Texas Certification, Master Reading Teacher, 2001, EC-12

Massachusetts Certification, Reading, 1996, all levels

Texas Certification, Secondary Reading, 1994, grades 6-12

## **EXPERIENCE**

August 2007 – Present

*Reading Teacher/Akins High School, Austin, TX*

Currently teaching Reading I, II for high school students classified as struggling readers. Workshop course: Students read books of their choice during sustained silent reading time; students work on writing projects during writing time. Students keep writer's notebooks, where they generate their own ideas for projects. Final drafts published in a class anthology three to four times a year. Reading comprehension skills taught through both shared/individual texts. Teacher has cultivated a classroom library with 700 high-interest titles.

December 2003 – 2007

*Curriculum Specialist/Language Arts Instructor, Travis High School, Austin, TX*

Promoted best literacy practice in all classrooms, particularly process-writing pedagogy and strategies for struggling readers. Specific duties included providing in-service for staff, mentoring teachers, teaching model lessons, assisting with lesson plans and materials, and teaching language arts courses. Also responsible for editing, publishing and promoting annual student literary anthology, *Our Lives, Our Words*.

Served as Master Reading Teacher on campus. Duties as MRT included diagnosing reading difficulties, planning lessons for struggling readers, building high-interest classroom libraries, addressing reading in the content areas.

July 2005 - 2006

*Capital City Writes/New Jersey Writing Project in Texas Trainer, Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX*

Trainer for A.I.S.D.'s summer writing institute. Responsible for coaching elementary, middle and high school teachers through writing process, with participants completing two polished pieces by end of course. Participants learned current research/best practice in reading instruction, process writing instruction, and grammar instruction.

2002 – 2003

*Practical Writing Teacher, Travis High School, Austin, TX*

Helped found, create, and teach new writing class for Travis High School. Course emphasized writing workshop model, allowing students to choose topics and take pieces through the writing process. Co-wrote 200-page curriculum for course.

2000 - 2003

*Reading Teacher, Travis High School, Austin, TX*

Taught Reading I and Reading II for students struggling with literacy skills. Curriculum emphasized sustained silent reading, journal writing, and interdisciplinary units based on high-interest novels and memoirs. Wrote DELTA reading curriculum for 2003. Served as member of Campus Advisory Committee.

1995 – 2000

*Reading Teacher, Rockland High School, Rockland, MA*

Founded and taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade inclusion reading program. Instructed 200 students on a rotating schedule. Program emphasized sustained-silent reading with in-class library of 600 trade books. Writing skills taught through free-choice writing workshop. Students kept journals and portfolios documenting growth in reading and writing.

Wrote two grants for portfolio assessment, bringing \$10,000 to the district. Taught Saturday school for students not achieving in Reading/English. Served on the School Council. Advised and edited the senior yearbook for two years. Chaperoned 10-day student trip to Europe. Co-wrote summer reading list for high school students. Advised 8<sup>th</sup> grade Quiz Bowl team for three years (tournament champions, 1998.) Taught summer school-to-work program for at-risk youth.

1998 – 2000

*Family Literacy Instructor, Rockland High School Adult Education Program, Rockland, MA*

Taught literacy program for families enrolled in basic education/ESL courses. Program emphasized reading activities, writing projects, and games to enrich reading/writing skills in families.

1994 – 1995

*Reading Teacher, Duxbury Jr./Sr. High School, Duxbury, MA*

Taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading, 9<sup>th</sup> grade reading, and college preparatory vocabulary to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Served as the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student advisor; organized student trips and activities.

1993 – 1994

*Reading Improvement Teacher, Kimball High School, Dallas, TX*

Taught reading improvement to 9<sup>th</sup> graders achieving two years or more below grade level. Worked with dean/staff to increase student TAAS scores and take school off academic probation.

1991 – 1993

*Editor, Fairchild Publications, New York, NY*

Edited retail section of *Home Furnishings Daily*. Wrote and edited business stories. Freelanced pieces for other New York publications.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Getting Started with Writer’s Notebooks.” February 2011, A.I.S.D. Secondary Teacher Professional Development.

“Outsider Literacies: Building on Student Strength.” March 2010, Heart of Texas Writing Project Conference.

“Writer’s Notebooks For Real.” Presented with Samantha Fleming. November 2008, Heart of Texas Writing Project Workshop.

“Positive Eyes: Revaluing Middle and High School Students’ Writing and Literate Lives.” Presented with Randy and Katherine Bomer. November 2008, NCTE Annual Conference.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

“South Austin Morning Meditation.” Published in *Writing Austin’s Lives*, The UT Humanities Institute and Waterloo Press, 2004.

“South Austin Morning Meditation.” Reprinted in *Alcalde*, Volume 92, #6, July/August, 2004.

“Now at the Garden: Dances with Knicks.” *New York Newsday*, September 24, 1991.

“A Young, Fresh Voice Passes on a New Word.” *New York Newsday*, August 26, 1991.

**AWARDS**

2003 A.I.S.D. High School Teacher of the Year, Area III  
2003 Travis High School Teacher of the Year  
2002 Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar to Japan  
1997 Teacher of the Year, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Rockland High School