

ACTIVITY: Carmen Deedy Author Visit

TARGET GRADE LEVEL: K-5<sup>th</sup>

REASON: Special Event / Curriculum Alignment

DESCRIPTION: Author Carmen Deedy will be visiting and reading her book, *The Secret of Old Zeb*. The themes of the book are “life dreams, following your own compass, self-reliance, facing fears, and secret lives”. Planned activities are as follows:

KINDERGARTEN:

**Curriculum Alignment:**

- *Relate written language to spoken language (GPS) (KLA\_C2009-22)*

**Activity(ies):**

- *Draws picture of what they want to be when they grow up – Theme: life dreams; or*
- *Makes and decorates a compass using paper plate, brads and moving compass hands – Theme: follow your own compass*

1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE/2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE:

**Curriculum Alignment:**

- *Begin to demonstrate an understanding of the text through oral retelling, pictures, or in writing (GPS) (1LA\_J2009-89)*
- *Make connections (text-to-self, text-to-text, text-to-world) (GPS) (1LA\_J2009-90)*

**Activity (ies):**

- *What a short story summarizing the story they heard and draw pictures to accompany their story; or*
- *Draw a picture and write a short story of what a fear is and how they will conquer the fear*

### 3RD GRADE / 4TH GRADE:

#### *Curriculum Alignment:*

- *Predict story events and outcomes based on title, illustrations, background knowledge, and story structure; check predictions*

#### *Activity (ies):*

- *Before listening to the author read the book, write a short story based the synopsis given: "Ten-year-old Walter feels lost when he is packed off to his Great Aunt Hortensia's, and he fears he is in for the worst summer ever. But then he befriends a mysterious neighbor, Old Zeb, a grizzled sailor who builds ships in bottles. Walter works faithfully on Zeb's Great Secret Project and lifelong dream, and little by little Old Zeb helps Walter realize his own dreams." Ask students to include in the story what they think Old Zeb's secret project and lifelong dream is and what Walter's dream is.*

### 5TH GRADE:

#### *Curriculum Alignment:*

- *Increase vocabulary through reading to reflect a growing range of interests and knowledge and incorporate into oral and written language (GPS) (5LA\_C2009-48)*

#### *Activity (ies):*

- *Create a short story using the following vocabulary words:*
  1. tomfoolery
  2. berserk
  3. slackjawed
  4. stupendous
  5. doubloons
  6. belittle
  7. skullduggery
  8. longitude
  9. latitude
  10. celestial