



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Pomperaug Regional School District 15
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Reggie Marra Holds Poetry Workshop for Memorial Middle School Eighth Graders

April 24, 2012, Middlebury/Southbury, CT—With the assistance of a PTO grant, Memorial Middle School again invited published poet, Reggie Marra, to work directly with eighth-grade students about poetry writing.

Reggie Marra has worked with the MMS students for the past several years, partially thanks to generous funding by the school PTO. His workshops have been considered valuable by staff and students alike, with a



focus on writing and sharing poetry in an encouraging setting. Reggie relates well to this age group, presenting poetry as a very natural way of communicating emotions and ideas. Over the years, students have found him to be an inspiration for putting their thoughts into poetic form.

Over the course of two days, Reggie tied in a part of his presentation with some of the Grade 8 literature units, such as taking different perspectives in poetry, as the students complete their Perspectives unit.

In his workshops, Reggie introduced what he calls “the poet’s tools” -- imagery, point of view, comparison, diction, the line, music (rhythm and rhyme), theme, texture, drama, and revision.

“All of our eighth graders took part in poetry workshops during their English/Language Arts classes,” said Mrs. Anita Dunn, a member of the MMS eighth grade team. “Those students who were interested in pursuing this further came back during ninth period for additional writing coaching with Reggie.”

The teachers are very thankful for being able to arrange this authentic writing opportunity to the eighth grade class, and extend their appreciation to the MMS PTO for their financial assistance.