

ABC Books and Non-fiction (Sample lesson from this seminar)

● **Materials:**

- * ABC books by Jerry Pallotta:
(This lesson is created from his *The SPICE Alphabet Book*)

● **Objectives:**

- * To create an interest in the wonders of ABC books.
- * To connect ABC books with non-fiction writing
- * To demonstrate the ease of creating short factual reports in the format of an ABC book.

● **Procedures:**

- * Ask the students what spices they already know. List these on a piece of chart paper with two columns: **Spice/Facts about this Spice**. When the student names the spice, ask them what facts they know about it. Write these in the second column.
- * Open *The SPICE Alphabet Book* and read what the author has stated about the spices the students already knew about. What new things did they learn? What more could they find out?
- * Share the format of the book and pay close attention to the illustrations and how they enrich the text. Share a few of your favorite pages and spices in the book.
- * Ask the students to go home and find out all the spices they have in their home. They are to write them down on a piece of paper and circle the spices they have the most interest and questions about.
- * On the SPICE chart from the previous day, add any new spices the students may have discovered in their kitchen cupboards. Suggest they choose a favorite spice to research. (Write their name by that spice on the chart.)

- * Tell the students they need lots of facts for their SPICY writing so they can create their own ABC SPICE book. Where did their spice come from? What are its many uses? What does it smell like? Could they actually have a "sample" in their ABC book? Could it be a SMELLY ABC book of Spices? What word choices could make their spice become the most aromatic? Are they going to have a glossary like Jerry Pallotta's or will their page be a bit different. How will they illustrate their page? Could this book become a great gift for mothers? Cooks in the school?