

## The Blue Metropolis Experience

Thanks to the financial contributions of ATEQ and the Blue Metropolis subsidy, I was able to bring two students to Montreal to participate in the Blue Metropolis Student literacy programs . For those of you who are unfamiliar with this program, Blue Met brings in many authors to talk about their own writing, what inspires them, and then they have different writing exercises for the students to do. It was really inspiring for the students to hear people who are proud of their work, and who can talk so openly about why it is good and how writing benefits their lives.

One of the writing exercises presented was using a poetry website called [www.wavepoetry.com](http://www.wavepoetry.com). On this site, you can choose many pre-entered writing samples, and then you can delete words to create your own poem. These poems can then be published on the site. The students also met a non-fiction writer, who discussed at length one of the most important tenets of his writing. The author stressed that when writing non-fiction, you shouldn't be "nice." Nice is deceptive and mediocre. Non-fiction requires truth, brutal and honest, in order to say what needs to be said and for the reader to fully understand what you are writing about. The students particularly liked the surrealist poetry style called "Exquisite Corpse." Everyone in the room takes turns adding a line to the poem, but they can only see the line right previous to their own, not all the rest of the poem. At the end, the whole poem is read out loud to see how it has evolved.

Tracy Hudson  
Golden Valley School  
Western Quebec School Board