MOVIE TRAILER LESSON
– Submitted by, Sean Sweeney

Sean Sweeney is a Speech and Language Pathologist and graduate of Boston University's program in Communication Disorders. He has worked at Lincoln-Eliot Elementary School in Newton since 2001, and enjoys spending much of each day in classrooms team-teaching on language strategies. Outside of Lincoln-Eliot, he has worked as a Clinical Adjunct Instructor at Boston University supervising student clinicians in their in-house clinic and continues to supervise graduate clinicians each semester at Lincoln-Eliot. He lectures regularly at BU on integrating technology tools into speech and language interventions. He also presented on this topic at the National Aphasia Association's conference in Boston in 1996, and recently completed a second master's degree and educational certification in Curriculum and Instructional Technology at Framingham State College. In November, 2008, he presented a seminar at the ASHA National Convention on the topic of "Facilitating Technology Integration Among Public School Speech-Language Pathologists."

Our 4th grade studies the concept of genres so I was thinking of the way this corresponded with movie trailers and abbreviated episodes. Movie trailers seem to have that structure, giving information about character, setting, kickoff, internal responses and plans (no direct consequence, because that would give the ending away), and also provide a good context for working on inferences as they often "hint" about aspects of the film. I rounded up nine trailers in different genres and am working with small groups to analyze them using the abbreviated episode map (found in the Story Grammar Marker® Manual). The kids then use a list map to pick out the elements of the film that make it fit in a genre (e.g. science fiction- space travel, aliens, astronauts, rocket ship etc) In this particular class I am having the small groups introduce each clip with an oral presentation (structured by MindWing’s abbreviated episode and list maps from the Story Grammar Marker® and ThemeMaker™ manuals) and then show the trailer as part of a "Genre Film Fest."

The clips I picked out, in case you are interested or they might help others, are:

Realistic Fiction
http://www.apple.com/trailers/lions_gate/akeelahandthebee/

Biography
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YW1b3G2MN3Q

Science Fiction

Mystery
http://www.apple.com/trailers/wb/nancydrew/

Fantasy

Informational

Nonfiction

Comedy

Adventure
http://www.apple.com/trailers/disney/up/

See following pages for samples of student work!
**The Student's Information List Map**

**Key Words:**
- for example, also, list, and, besides, furthermore, in addition to, another also, for instance, more, some...

- Aliens
- Astronaut
- Rocket
- Weird

**Topic Sentence:**

- **Your Plan: List** things related to a topic.

**SGM® Abbreviated Episode Map**

**Name:**

- Leanna
- Nancy Drew
- Holly Wood

**Summary:**

- She moves and tries to figure out a mystery.
- Exit and scored

- If have a beginning of a plot:
  - Investigate the house and the tunnel.

**Elements of Mystery**

- Clues
- Some thing must be solved
- Detectives
- Prediction

- **Your Plan:**
  - List, and, besides, furthermore, in addition to, another also, for instance, more, some...

- **Elements of Science**
  - Elements
  - Science

- **Your Plan:**
  - List, and, besides, furthermore, in addition to, another also, for instance, more, some...