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# ESOL TAPAS

TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL APPETIZERS

## Student Retention/Persistence

This time of year is filled with post testing and wrapping up classes, not to mention gifts, before a long holiday break. To add one more thing to your plate it's a good time to consider student retention or *persistence* as it has been labeled. In order to ensure students' return in January, Melinda Roberts of Pearson Longman offers some strategies:

- Create a Safe Learning Environment - students can buddy with another student who speaks their language and exchange phone numbers for keeping up with classes and each other during the break.
- Build a Strong Classroom Community - use variations of group work to encourage student interaction; and allow students to share their cultures and traditions.
- Goal-Setting for short and long-term - students will track their own progress; and encourage students to set job-related goals high by introducing them to the concept of working their way up the ladder.
- Allow Students to Purchase Textbooks - they have a monetary investment and can continue work over break.

### Web Resources

Ideas to Encourage Student Retention

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/studretn.htm>

Family Involvement Storybook Corner - features "Tomasito's Mother Comes to School" in English & Spanish, ideas for using stories with the family, as well as a list of read-aloud storybooks.

<http://www.gse.harvard.edu/hfrp/projects/fine/resources/storybook/index.html>

Improve Reading Skills - overview of skimming, scanning, extensive and intensive reading skills.

<http://esl.about.com/od/englishreadingskills/a/readingskills.htm>

ReadPlease - This program allows you to select text and it will read it to you. You choose the speed and voice. <http://readplease.com/>

Vocabulary - This site is filled with activities for improving students' vocabulary skills. <http://www.vocabulary.com/>

### NE RC LIBRARY RESOURCES

*Student Retention: Creating Student Success* by Fran Tracy-Mumford, Ph.D.

*Assessment of Program Success Factors: An ABLE Retention tool* created by the Southwest Resource Center.

Multicultural Collection of novels for teachers (See page 2 of TAPAS)

Available upon request at [www.neablelibrary.org](http://www.neablelibrary.org).





## Read a Book During Your Holiday Break!

The Northeast Resource Center Library is proud to present its multicultural collection of novels for teachers' enjoyment and/or professional growth. Reserve a book today! Visit [www.neablelibrary.org](http://www.neablelibrary.org)

- *God Grew Tired of Us* by John Bul Da.
- *Snow* by Orhan Pamuk.
- *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* by Dinaw Mengestu.
- *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali.
- *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan.
- *Three Cups of Tea* by Mortenson.
- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini
- *The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar
- *If Today Be Sweet* by Thrity Umrigar
- *Reading Lolita In Tehran* by Azar Nafisi
- *Nine Part s of Desire* by Gwendolyn Brooks
- *When I Was Puerto Rican* by Esmeralda Santiago
- *Native Speaker* by Chang-Rae Lee
- *Teacher Man* by Frank Mc Court
- *The Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell
- *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman

### Special Holiday Offer - Still need professional development credit?

The first 5 people to register to read *The Kite Runner* or *The World is Flat* for professional development get to **keep the book** in addition to PD credit and a stipend! Register on the calendar at [http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/northeast/calendar\\_results\\_alternative.cfm](http://mercury.educ.kent.edu/database/rcn/northeast/calendar_results_alternative.cfm)