

## Remembering Moments Shared With Marie Clay



### Tribute Introduction

*Mary Rosser, trainer  
University of Maine*

Friends, as I was watching the rolling images on our screen tonight—listening to your stories and reflecting upon the energy, enjoyment, and unity of goodwill in the room—I found myself thinking, “How lucky are we to have known Marie Clay?” To have worked with her, learned from her, enjoyed her company, and to have been touched by her in the many ways we will reflect upon tonight.

Marie Clay was an outstanding person. She was a rigorous researcher, a prolific writer, a thoughtful and sensitive teacher, and most of all; she was a wonderful human being.

Marie never lost her sense of the ordinary. In spite of her many achievements and the many accolades bestowed upon her, she always remained grounded. In fact, she was quite often both surprised and delighted when something grand came her way.

At heart, Marie Clay was a humble and unassuming human being. Throughout her life she maintained an understanding and deep empathy for anyone on the downside of opportunity — particularly if that person happened to be 6 years of age and struggling with the literacy demands of the classroom.

There are many words which come to mind as I think about Marie’s fine qualities — generous, warm, funny... A wise mentor, a good listener, and oh, such a very good friend!

Each of us has a personal history of moments shared with Marie Clay, and as we reflect upon our own special stories tonight, we will also have the opportunity to share the stories of our colleagues who will join me up here at the microphone:

<i>Marie as a Researcher</i>	Bob Schwartz, trainer, Oakland University Lynn Mangold, teacher leader, Walled Lake Public Schools
<i>Marie as a Writer</i>	Gay Su Pinnell, trainer, The Ohio State University Mary Ann Poparad, trainer, National-Louis University
<i>Marie as a Teacher</i>	Barbara Schubert, trainer, St. Mary’s College Lynn Jasmine, teacher leader, Reno, Nevada Vanessa Bramlett, teacher leader, San Lorenzo, California
<i>Marie as a Person</i>	Billie Askew, trainer emeritus, Texas Woman’s University
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Mary Anne Doyle, trainer, University of Connecticut

Friends, Marie would not want us to be maudlin about her passing.

She'd be saying to us, "What's the matter with you? Go on back out there. There's work to be done and children to be taught!"

Marie drew her strength from the positives, and I'm sure that would be her hope for us. That we draw strength, courage, enjoyment, and satisfaction from reflecting upon the many moments shared with Marie Clay, and the many positive contributions she has made to our lives, both personally and professionally.

So, in beginning our journey down memory lane, it's my pleasure to welcome, Bob Schwartz.

*Remarks from the tribute to Marie Clay, June 4, 2007, at the 2007 Teacher Leader Institute & North American Leadership Academy in Vienna, Virginia*