



Season's Greetings!

During the holiday season we hear many stories about family, events in history and holiday traditions. The stories that really stand out are the ones that have the element of unexpectedness—the ones that challenge our assumptions, and make us see things from a different perspective.

In this issue, you'll read Don's analogy between characters in the Wizard of Oz and struggling learners, often falsely labeled and written off as unteachable. Don wrote this piece after he attended The Wizard of Oz play at Camp Courage, Minnesota where non-verbal students acted out their parts using AAC devices. Each character in the Wizard of Oz had a label which held a lot of assumptions—read on to find out what happens...

We call this piece... ***The Assumption Trap*** !

The Wizard of Oz and the Assumption Trap

Don writes, "This summer I attended a play for AAC users in Minnesota at Camp Courage. They put on the play The Wizard of Oz. It was really amazing to see kids all dressed up in costume and makeup using their AAC devices to speak the lines of the Wizard of Oz. I had forgotten the story line at first, but then it all came back to me: The Scarecrow had no brain. The Tinman had no heart. The Lion had no courage. The wizard was thought to have magical powers. "



These were all false assumptions about the characters' abilities defined by others and believed by self. In the end, The Wizard of Oz was a play about correcting false assumptions about people.

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the Scarecrow had several... in the course of the play

[Read Don's entire message>>>](#)

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Look for Don Johnston at these upcoming conferences:

[TRLD](#) - January 22-24, 2009, San Francisco, CA

[ATIA](#) - January 28-31, 2009, Orlando, FL

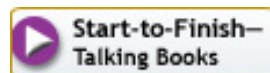
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Our latest online demo is for [Start-to-Finish](#)! Like the others, it's menu driven—watch it all or just one part. It even includes links to the white paper, pricing and more. Get your questions answered quickly and get your colleagues together to discuss how you can integrate Start-to-Finish into your daily routine to benefit your students.



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Our gift to you is a new round of FREE webinars, produced in cooperation with CITED, that will support your efforts to integrate technology in your classrooms! The links at the right will take you to the archives where you can view completed sessions or sign up for future webinars with educational experts, including Denise DeCoste, David Rose and Joy Zabala. Seats are limited, so don't wait!

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[View the recent Denise DeCoste session](#),

Assistive Technology: Written Productivity & Assessment

[Register or get more information](#) about the

next presentation entitled: **Technology Implementation: Getting to Where You Want to Be**

Jan 6th & 13th, 2:30 PM CST

with David Rose, Mary Thorngren and Jenna

Wasson

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