

Planning the inquiry

1. What is our purpose?	Class/grade: 1st	Age group: 6-7 years old
1a) To inquire into the following:		
 transdisciplinary theme 	School: Poe Elementary	School code: 49497
How We Express Ourselves: an inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.	Title: How We Express Oursel	lves
	Teacher(s): Burton, Orta, Randall, Culver, Hilton, Quevedo	
	Date: August 24 – October 2, 2015	
	Proposed duration: 6 weeks	
central idea		
Storytelling is an art that can be told in many different forms.		

1b) Summative assessment task(s): 2. What do we want to learn? What are the possible ways of assessing students' What are the key concepts (form, function, causation, change, connection, understanding of the central idea? What evidence, including perspective, responsibility, reflection) to be emphasized within this inquiry? student-initiated actions, will we look for? Form • Perspective Students tell a story any way they wish, making sure they have a clear beginning, middle and end with characters and Reflection • Related Concepts: This could include drawing, singing, retelling or a Patterns performance of the story. Part of their presentation will Conflict include why they have chosen this particular story and how it Purpose makes them feel. Students will be graded using a rubric that they will be made What lines of inquiry will define the scope of the inquiry into the central idea? aware of ahead of time. Communication through stories. How reflection of story elements (i.e., character and setting) • facilitates and enhances comprehension. Storytelling through art, music, dance, film, and literature • What teacher questions/provocations will drive these inquiries? Teacher provocation will include gathering students around on the carpet, setting the scene for a story, once the students are hooked, the teacher will abruptly end the story without ever introducing characters or setting or any of the other story elements that make a story work. Teacher will then facilitate a student-led discussion. What is a story? What does a story have? ٠ How do you know a story is being told? Why do we listen to stories? Why are stories told?

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Students will be shown a rubric prior to beginning the assessment. Teacher will discuss what they are looking for: After presenting, students will discuss what they liked and what they thought could be improved upon. Teacher will explain constructive feedback and how authors, artists and performers use it to shape their forms of expression.	 What opportunities will occur for transdisciplinary skills development and for the development of the attributes of the learner profile? Communicators -Listen to others tell their stories; Retell key components of a story; Tell their own short story. Risk takers – Voicing their own opinions about a story and presenting their story to their peers. Thinker- Analyze parts of the story to determine author's purpose and any problem/solution presented in the story.
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5. What resources need to be gathered? What people, places, audio-visual materials, related literature, music, art, computer software, etc, will be available?

Megan Jackson (dancer), Fletcher Stafford & Michelle Dugan (Art), Michelle Jackson & Lia White (Music-Opera/Songs), Books by these authors: (Alexandra Day, Doreen Cornin, Alma Flor Ada, Josefa Kratky, Kevin Henkes, Amy Krause Rosenthal), Internet for for books online (StoryOnline, United Streaming), CD player (stories to music), Main Street Theater (Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse Performance)

How will the classroom environment, local environment, and/or the community be used to facilitate the inquiry?

Classroom- book displays, charts of elements of books we've read, story-starter pictures, pictures of characters

Houston Storybook Opera- school visit to perform Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

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Reflecting on the inquiry

6. To what extent did we achieve our purpose?	7. To what extent did we include the elements of the PYP?
Assess the outcome of the inquiry by providing evidence of students' understanding of the central idea. The reflections of all teachers involved in the planning and teaching of the inquiry should be included.	What were the learning experiences that enabled students to:
Some of the teachers felt the unit could be better understood by the students if it took place later in the year. The students would be more independent writers and better communicators.	• Develop an understanding of the concepts identified in "What do we want to learn?"
	Students recognize diverse styles by recognizing the differences among their individual stories.
Creating stories and expressing themselves improved. It was easier for most students to find expression, purpose, and format in stories than to create their own.	Students recognize the patterns in Kevin Henkes' stories and how he often incorporates the same characters throughout his stories.
How you could improve on the assessment task(s) so that you would have a more accurate picture of each student's understanding of the central idea. The pre-assessment was interesting. Some of the students needed assistance	Students can make their own story maps detailing the story elements.
	Demonstrate the learning and application of particular transdisciplinary skills?
in fleshing out their stories, but all of them were unique and different.	Socially, the students shared their own stories and respected
For the post-assessment, we might offer students a chart of story elements to help them organize their ideas before writing the final story. Some teachers felt they wanted to offer more choices of picture promts or the ability to create their own drawing.	each other's different styles by giving positive feedback.
	The students communicated with each other and their teacher to demonstrate their understanding of the material.
	Thinking: The students were able to identify and use new vocabulary learned from the books studied in their own work.
What was the evidence that connections were made between the central idea and the transdisciplinary theme?	Develop particular attributes of the learner profile and/or attitudes?
Students were able to tell the difference between different authors studied, specifically the author's tone and purpose.	Introduced a wonder wall as a way to invite student inquiry related to our unit of study.
Our appreciation of the aesthetic as evidenced by student's ability to compare and contrast the different mediums of expression, (i.e, dance versus art and written	Talked about how stories are a form of communication for authors.
words)	Students had to be risk takers in order to share their own stories.
	Reflection occurred in self and peer evaluation of pre- and post- assessment.

The study of Kevin Henkes' books led to discussion of character's attitudes and choices.

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Reflecting on the inquiry

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8. What student-initiated inquiries arose from the learning?	9. Teacher notes	
Record a range of student-initiated inquiries and student questions and highlight any that were incorporated into the teaching and learning.	How are authoring and story-telling connected to other things in our daily lives?	
Students wanted to know, "Why do authors write?"		
How and why are some stories different than others?	What is the quality of stories that I have written? Create a self-	
How do they come up with characters?	assessment for the students to check for elements and purpose.	
Why do some people choose to dance? Or paint?	In the future, we want to choose more global authors, fables, and	
Are stories the same all around the world?	myths to connect to various cultures and periods. Also, use the provocation of how the story would change or remain the same if were to take place in another setting (in other countries).	
At this point teachers should go back to box 2 "What do we want to learn?" and highlight the teacher questions/provocations that were most effective in driving the inquiries.		
Why did the author write this story?		
How do the characters, setting, and events affect the story?		
What do the illustrations add to the meaning?		
What student-initiated actions arose from the learning?		
Students used new vocabulary learned from Amy Krauss Rosenthal books in their own writing and conversations.		
Students focused on character's attitudes and compared them to IB attitudes. They also discussed what would occur in the story if they had other attitudes.		

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