POPEY
Provincial Outreach Program
for the Early Years
www.popey.ca

Supporting SEL and Playful Literacy Learning Through Story Workshop

Presenters:
Lisa Thomas & Jen Kelly

Guest Presenter:
Gina Wong

Wednesday, February 8th

3:15 – 4:15pm

*Workshop resources available at padlet.com/POPEY

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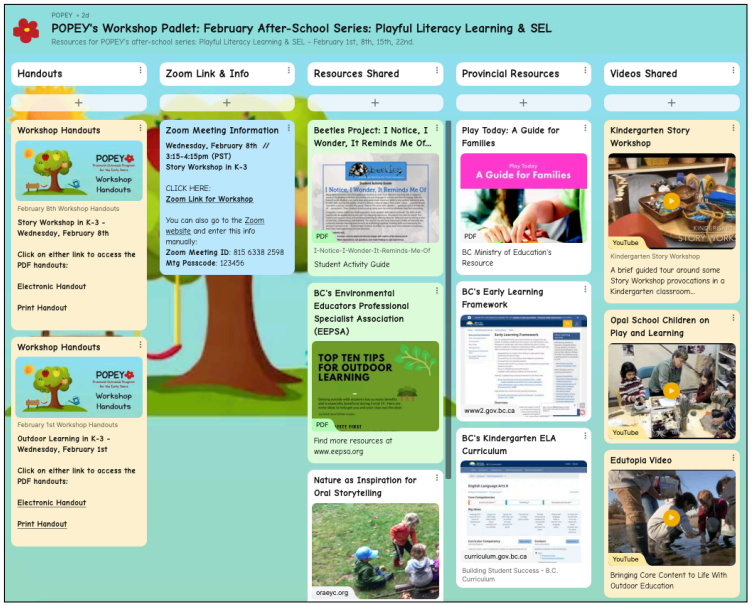

*Additional K–3 literacy resources available at popey.ca

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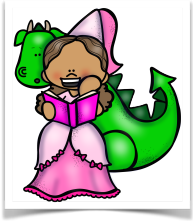
Today we are exploring...

Strategies, resources and ideas to incorporate **story workshop** into meaningful, playful & engaging K–3 literacy learning that honours student voice and choice, while nurturing curiosity and experimentation.



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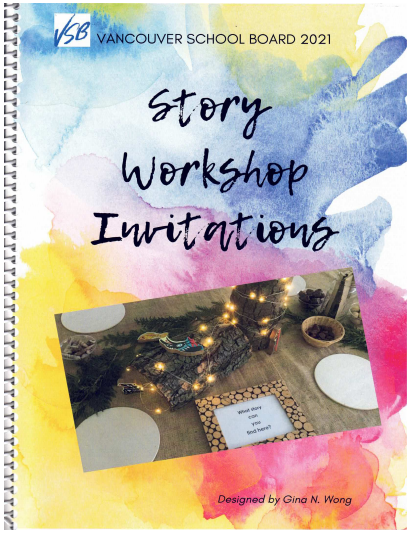
Engaging with the Early Learning Framework

"Play is an approach to inquiry, a way to research the world. By providing diverse materials and experiences, educators create spaces for experimentation and transformation."

Kira Reynolds, Ministry of Education

Welcome Gina Wong - Guest Presenter



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What is the connection between literacy and arts?

Questions that inspired the beginning of story workshop…

* What might be the role of play?
* What happens when we infuse writing workshop with ample use of the arts and time to play?
* How do the voice and the choice that results when we invite children to create and tell their stories lead to a classroom practice of democracy?
* How does this practice both rely on and reinforce equity and access for all?

Choose **one** question to reflect on and write your thoughts in the chat box.

What is Story Workshop?

Story Workshop is a structure that supports language and literacy development. Adults work alongside children as they explore prepared environments and experiences.

They may consider…

* Where do stories live?
* What stories do I want to world to hear?
* What stories do I need to tell?
* How do stories influence me and our community?

Why Story Workshop?

Story Workshop helps teachers work with students who exclaim they have nothing to write about during writing workshop.

Students start to understand that they:

* can be curious about the environment around them
* are competent communicators
* have important stories to tell
* can make connections to other people's stories
* have big emotions they can explore and share with others

What role does curiosity play in learning?

The '**wonder**' aspect of curiosity – the why and the how quest for understanding rather than fact finding

A goal of curiosity is to prepare the mind for learning. It prepares us to be ready to decide which information we want/need to attend to in situations.

Asking an engaging question can create a more long-lasting value (desire) for learning novel information.

For example – "What do you think happens when…?"

Children have a natural motivation to explore the world, but we can encourage a more important motivator to explore the mind.

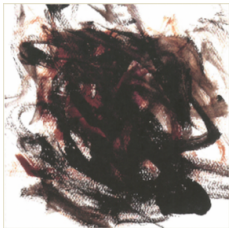
Kindergarten Story Workshop - Classroom Tour

J Allair – Kindergarten Story Workshop inspired by Opal School

What questions can you ask?

Emotions and Story Workshop

Can you use colours and lines to capture the feeling of angry?



"I used brown and black and I made scribbles because angry things feel scribbles. You might explode."

"When I'm angry, it is a loud angry, like thunder and lightning."

"The pinkness is I'm mad because my cheeks get pink. The redness comes out of my ears like fire coming out of your ears."

Writing Workshop Connection

Preparation: A selection of writing paper, writing utensils, blank books made of stapled paper, alphabet charts

Invitation: An empowering action for students who have created stories through story workshop is to write them down so their story can be accessed for a long period of time.

Instruction: With both story workshop and writer's workshop, teachers use students' own writing to teach writing skills and strategies.

Using Documentation to Inform Practice

Consider Intentions: What is your learning intention? What materials will you need? What provocations will you use? What will you invite the children to do?

Prepare: What do you want to gather more information about? What tools will you need? How will you position yourself to observe with an open mind?

Observe: Capture through notes, writing down children's dialogue, take photographs to support your memory.

Interpret & Speculate: What do you notice? What patterns do you see? What evidence do you see that supports your interpretation. What surprises or confuses you?

What are your next steps?

Sources

POPEY's Playful Literacy Padlet

Info Links

more info links are available on our website

BC Ministry of Education's Play Today: A Guide for Families

BC Early Learning Framework

Books

Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers – MacKay

Motivating a Love of Learning presentation – Bonawitz

Videos

more videos are available on our YouTube channel

Opal School: Children on Play & Learning

J Allair – Kindergarten Story Workshop inspired by Opal School

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We hope to see you again soon...

Wednesday, February 15th – Literacy, SEL, and Global Citizenship

Wednesday, February 22nd – Fostering Curiosity Through Conversation

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