



SCAN ME

Experiential Learning for Culturally Diverse Students: The Power of Storypath Projects

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Three questions for our session:

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- What is PBL Storypath?

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- How does Storypath center student agency (voice, choice, and autonomy) in the learning process?

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- Why is PBL Storypath a powerful approach for gifted students?

Exemplars

Solving Problems in the Park
&
Media Literacy in Action:
The Community Planning Project

Instructional Delivery

Key questions guide learning to:

- problematize knowledge;
- encourage substantive conversations;
- create the lived experience;
- learn and use civic skills in context; and
- practice literacy skills in context.

A Pathway to Learning

Setting

Characters
(The Students)

Context

Critical Incidents
(The Plot)

Conclusion

4



Photo credit: <https://blog.teachingmatters.org/jumpstart-to-early-reading>

Research Base

Children's social, cultural, and civic identities develop at a young age; therefore, teaching how democracy works matters greatly.

As active learners, children construct meaning through dramatic play, rehearsing real life events, and tackling problems.

Student led learning is at the heart of the Storypath approach. Through their character roles, learners shape the story affirming their assets and identities as the story unfolds.

Cooperative problem solving (critical thinking), social-emotional learning and civic action can be effectively woven together for powerful learning.



Compelling Question:

How can we create a park for everyone?

Solving Problems in the Park



Episodes

1. The Place for the Park
2. The Park Planners
3. Investigating Plants for the Park
4. A Place to Play
5. Graffiti in the Park
6. Bullying in the Park
7. Dedicating the Park



Launching the Storypath:

An invitation...

Dear Students,

I would like to invite you to become park planners for our community. Your class has been selected because it is my understanding that you are hard workers, willing to learn, and can imagine a park "just right" for our community. The first task is to plan the park. The second task is to create the park. Both tasks will involve a lot of work, and it will be important that you can work well together. There will be problems to be solved along the way. I believe that you are the perfect class for such a project. Please let me know if you will accept the invitation.

Sincerely,

Creating the Setting

Students create the setting by completing a mural or other visual representation of the place. The setting anchors the story.

- Brainstorming
- Classroom Discourse
- Affirming Students' Contributions and Identities
- Fostering creative thinking and imagination
- Assessing Understanding
- Asking Questions

How do students create the setting?

- Students decide on the park landscape and create a chart for reference.
- Art skills including perspective, scale, and color are discussed to support the construction of the setting.
- Students collaborate—participate in the give and take of creating a suitable setting for their story.
- Academic language is introduced as students collaborate on making the setting.





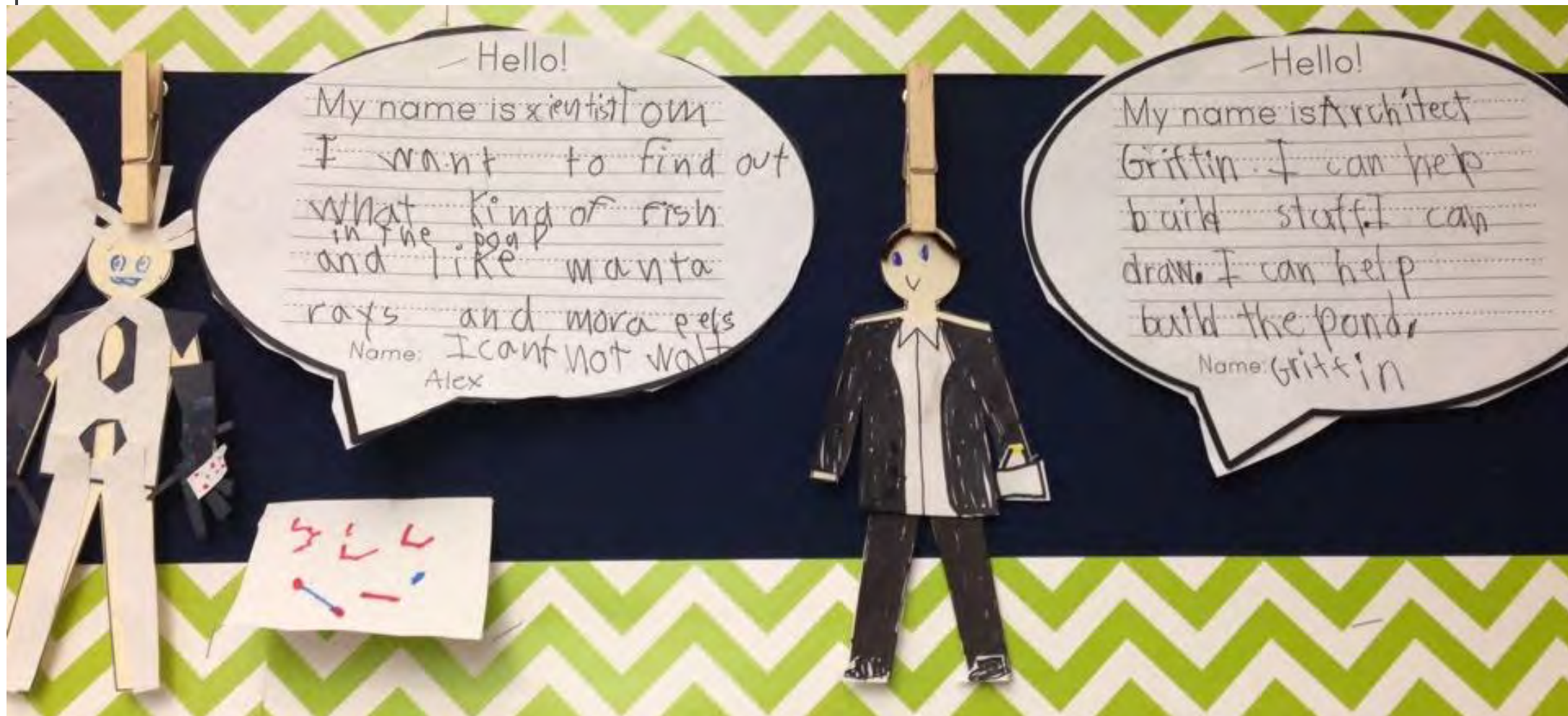
Talking about the park

- Create a word bank
- Postcard writing
 - Take a photo of the park
 - Write about the park
 - Share postcard with families

Creating the Characters

Students create characters for the story whose roles they will play during subsequent episodes.

The Park Planners



Speaking,
Listening, and
Writing in
Context and
with a Purpose

Building Context

A Place to Play

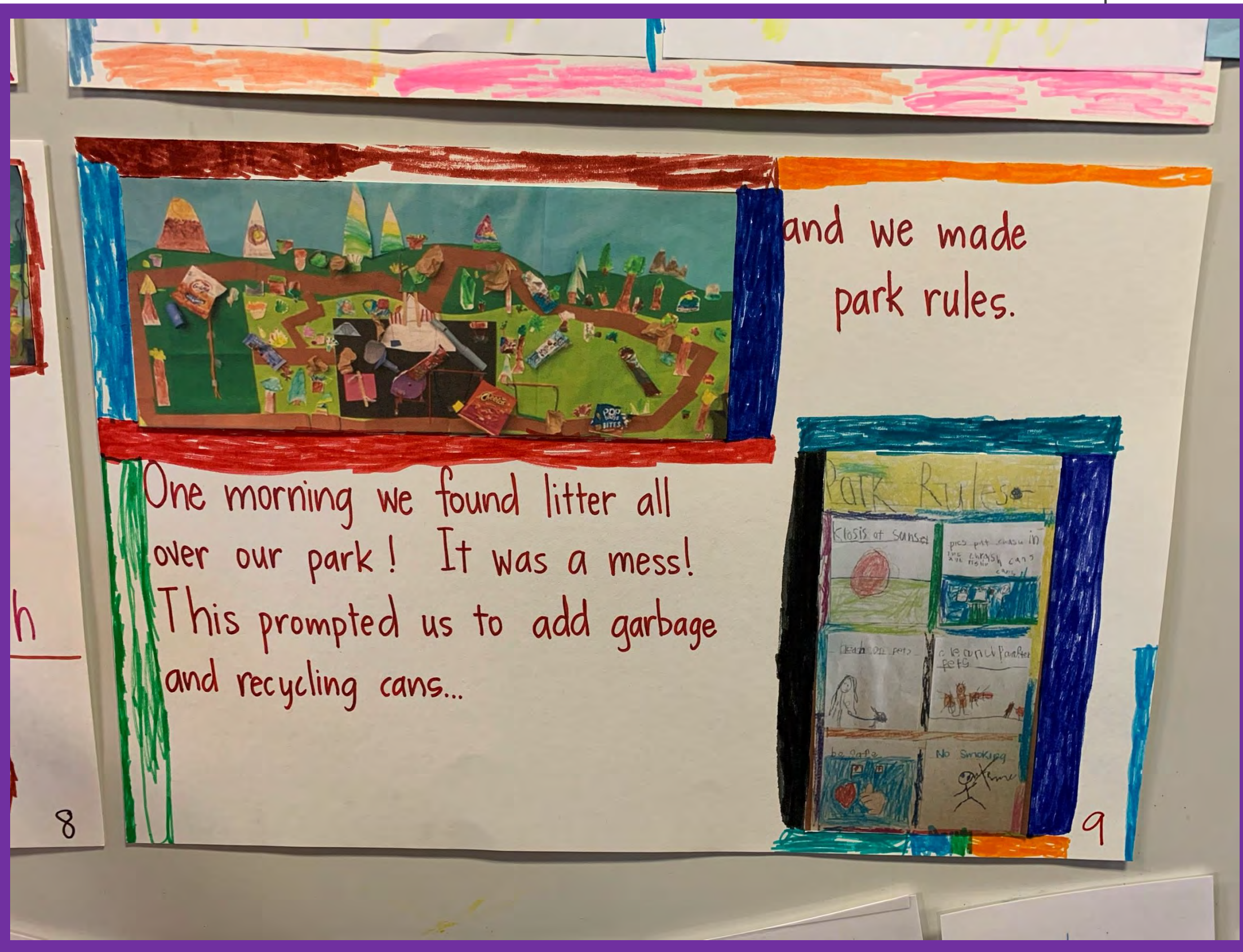
- What kinds of play equipment do we want in our park?
- Where in the park might children play? *(Have children identify the area on the setting.)*
- How will children play in the park? What will they do? *(Have students consider recreational activities as well as play equipment such as swings, seesaws, and sand box.)*
- How should we organize the play area? *(Have students decide on appropriate places for the play areas. The setting may dictate the kinds of activities that would take place in the park.)*

Extending the Learning:

How do we make the park accessible for everyone?

Critical Incidents

Characters confront problems typical of those faced by people of that time and place.



Concluding Event: The Park Dedication



Grades
3-6

STORYPATH®
Project-Based Learning

Media Literacy in Action: The Community Planning Project

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Episodes

Episode 1 The Characters:
The Community Planners

Episode 2 Context Building:
Researching Livable Communities

Episode 3 The Setting:
Constructing the Community

Episode 4 The Critical Incident
A Media Controversary

Episode 5 The Concluding Event:
Celebrating the Livable Community

Barbara
Bromley's
Shares her
Storypath
Experience





SCAN ME

Complementary Storypath

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