Literacy Moves Outdoors "hand-out"

Literacy to Go 9



StoryWalks[®] 33



Word Gardens 50



Contact me: Valerie Bang-Jensen

- Grab and Go backpacks
- Norms & routines for working together outside
- Read alouds
- Text sets and paired books with materials (rocks, clouds)
- Scavenger Hunts

Possible literacy goals:

- Identical to those you have indoors, in your classroom!
- Read alouds/comprehension
- Partner/independent reading
- Authentic experiences with types of texts (field guides, nonfiction, thematic fiction, signage)

Sample books: Mama Built A Little Nest, It Looked Like Spilt Milk, Everybody Needs a Rock, The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter, Forest Has A Song

- Post a book's pages as a storywalk to help readers enjoy a story and connect to place
- Students can share their own writing as a story walk, considering audience
- Logistics for setting up storywalks outside and along school hallways

Possible literacy goals:

- Choosing writer's voice for audience
- Editing for public viewing
- Incorporating think alouds using post-it notes

Sample books to feature in storywalks: Small in the City, The Gardener, Saturday, Pie is for Sharing, The Day You Begin, Up in the Leaves:The True Story of the Central Park Treehouses, Last Stop on Market Street

- Create poems, stories, & messages using moveable words
- Word work, including phonics & vocabulary
- Invite larger school community to collaborate
- Create physical "word walls" or word banks related to literacy, social studies, science, and math curricula

Possible literacy goals:

- Phonics & word families
- Forms of poetry
- All aspects of reading

Sample books focused on words: A Walk in the Words, Max's Words, Little Red Writing, A Poke in the I, Lexie the Word Wrangler, A Day with No Words

Show Us a Sign! 69



Literacy Trails 90



Make It Happen 108



- Signs solve problems (where am I? What is this?)
- There are different types of signs, each requiring different graphics, tone, and information
- Signs can be grouped into:
 Wayfaring, (where?), regulatory (what's ok?), and interpretive (what's this about?)

Possible literacy goals:

- Using visual (symbols) and verbal (words) text to convey a message
- Considering audience/readers' needs when conveying a message
- Writing short text allows for students to focus on succinct writing

Sample books related to signage: Runaway Signs, Give Me A Sign! What Pictograms Tell Us Without Words, I Read Signs, We Love Reading Street Signs. Plus, expository and narrative nonfiction picture books are great models.

- Range from simple sensory or action trails with symbols to trails created with signage and interpretive writing by students
- Might relate to a book, curriculum, or be place-based
- Possibilities are endless! Base on: local celebrities or history, literature, nature, neighborhoods, unique features (landmark or interesting building)

Possible literacy goals:

- Report/brochure writing
- Writing for audience
- Oral communication (guides)
- Use of maps, symbols, and relevant keys

Sample books related to trails: The Hike, Home in the Woods, Journey, Tiny Perfect Things, Wonder Walkers

- Administrative Support: share how these experiences enable your students to meet literacy goals
- Funding and potential donors: connect with local and chain hardware stores, consider GoFundMe, DonorsChoose, or other crowd-sourcing sites, PTOs, partner with a technical school
- Partnerships within school community: city/town departments of recreation/parks, conservation groups, nature centers, museums & historical societies, libraries, stores & other businesses
- Space: outdoor classrooms or spaces, with "go to" bins or bags of materials
- Colleagues: find a partner! Grade level teams or "book buddies" work
- Volunteers: parents, college/high school students

Images are from *Literacy Moves Outdoors, Learning Approaches for Any Environment* (V. Bang-Jensen, Heinemann 2023).