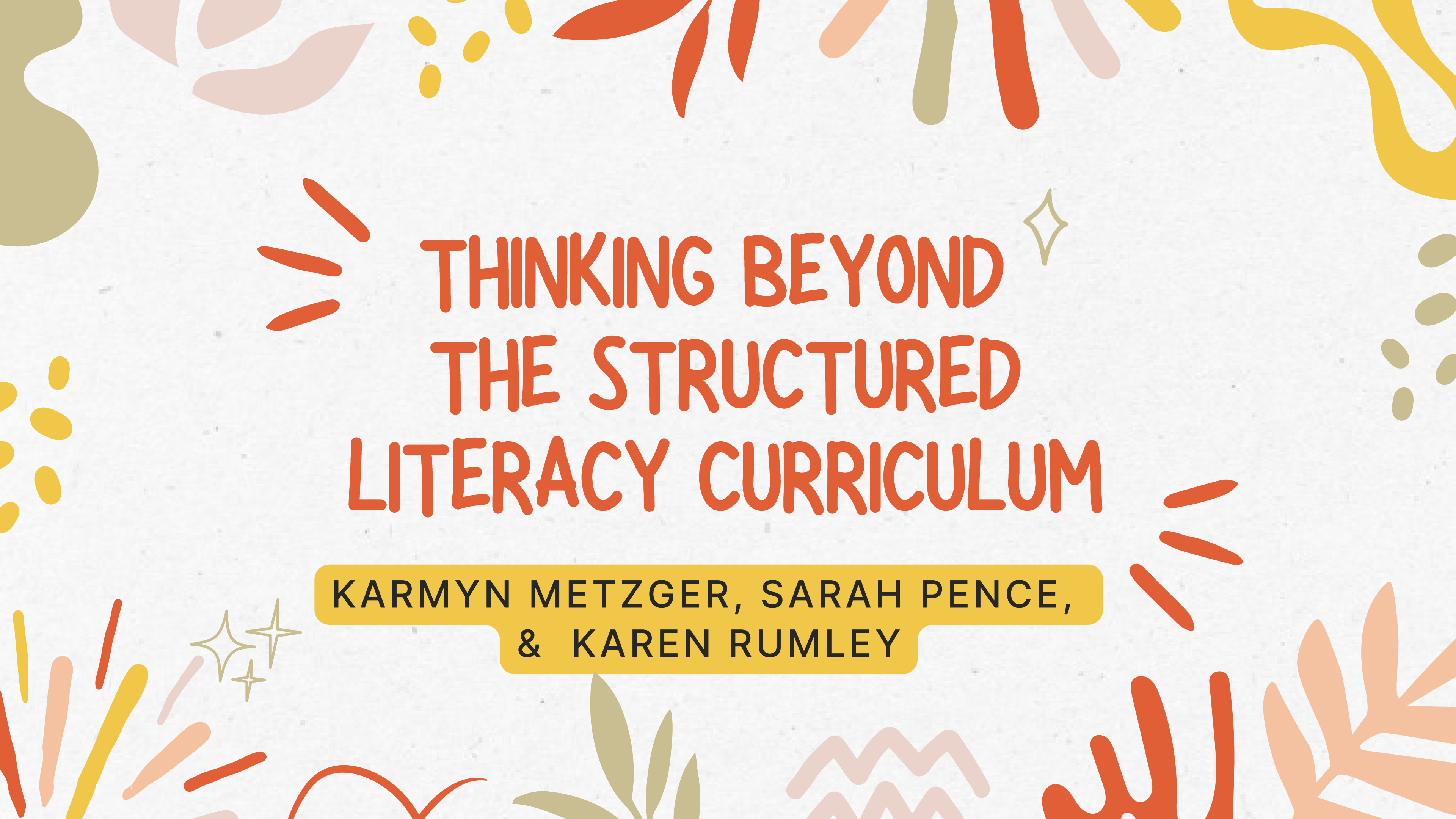


The background is a light cream color with various colorful abstract shapes and patterns. At the top, there are wavy lines in shades of pink, orange, and yellow. Below these, there are several small yellow dots and larger orange and red shapes. On the left side, there are more yellow dots and some orange and red shapes. On the right side, there are more yellow dots and some orange and red shapes. At the bottom, there are more orange and red shapes, including some that look like stylized leaves or petals. The overall aesthetic is bright, cheerful, and modern.

THINKING BEYOND THE STRUCTURED LITERACY CURRICULUM

KARMYN METZGER, SARAH PENCE,
& KAREN RUMLEY



TODAY'S JOURNEY

- Our backgrounds
 - New structured literacy
 - CKLA celebrations
 - Creativity challenges
 - Service learning
 - Other ELA connections
 - Gifted Relevance
 - Open Share/Brainstorming
- 

WHO WE ARE

SARAH

- 3rd/4th grade
- 14 years
- Mom to 5 year old Bella
- Loves dancing and travel

KARMYN

- 2nd Grade/ Instructional Coach
- 13 years
- Mom to Eli, Felix, & Leo
- Loves yoga, plants, & sunshine

KAREN

- Dir. of Instruction
- 12 years
- 20 yrs GT Ed
- Wife to Eric
- Loves gardening, travel, and friends



SHARED EXPERIENCES

- Worthington
 - Creativity
 - C4
 - Agents of Change
 - Gifted education
 - Summer Institute
 - Reading
- 

CKLA

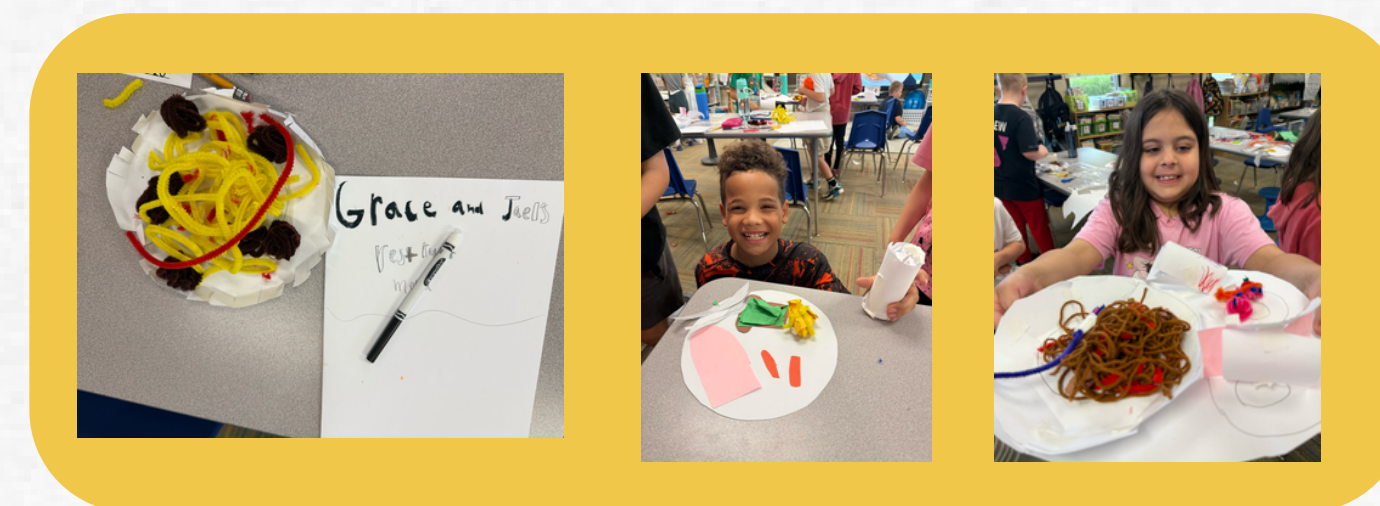
- From teacher-created units (with curriculum as a guide) to adopting CKLA as our structured literacy curriculum
- HUGE shift!



2ND GRADE CKLA CELEBRATIONS

Units and Celebrations:

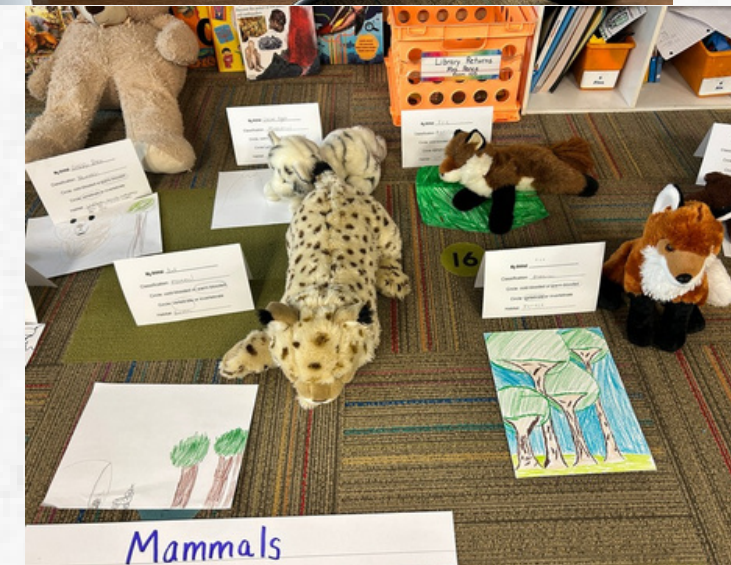
- Fairy Tales and Tall Tales - art, dress up day
- Ancient Greece and Greek Mythology - art, 2nd grade olympics
- Cycles in Nature: Insects - H2O Cycle experiment, worm observations
- A House Divided: American Civil War - artifact observations
- Poetry - creative writing
- Immigration - student guest speaker, creativity challenge
- All About Nutrition - create a meal / menu
- Age of Aviation - create a flying machine



3RD GRADE CKLA CELEBRATIONS

- **End of Unit Celebrations:**

- U1: Classic Tales - Movie & Parade
- U2: Animals - Zoo
- U3: Poetry slam
- U5: Astronomy - StarLab
- U6: Native Americans - Choice board for research
- U8: Light & Sound - Neon Party
- U9: Jazz - Listening bracket and Movie



KNOWLEDGE BUILDING CURRICULUM IS GOOD FOR **GIFTED LEARNERS**, TOO

Consider:

ASYNCHRONY

Uneven
development

TWICE
EXCEPTIONALITY

Gifted +

NO ONE IS BORN
WITH KNOWLEDGE OR SKILLS

Children with exceptionalities
need opportunities to learn,
too!

Under-identification can
come from limited
exposure to rich language
and to experiences



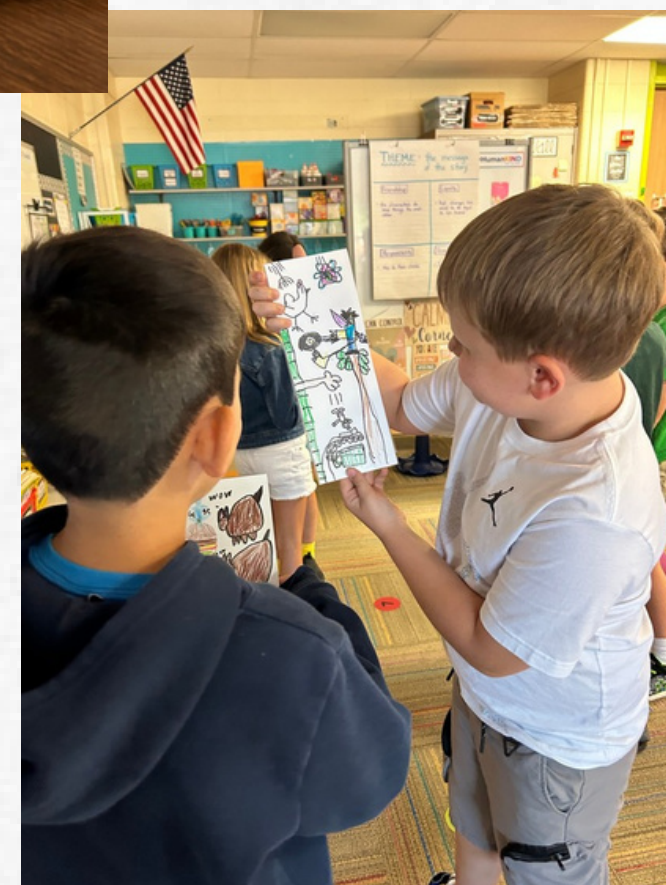
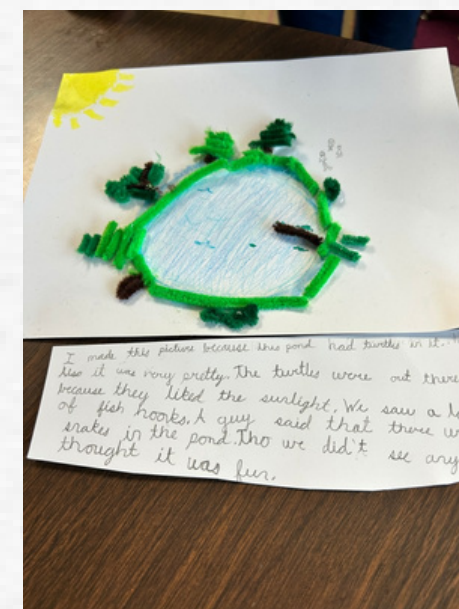
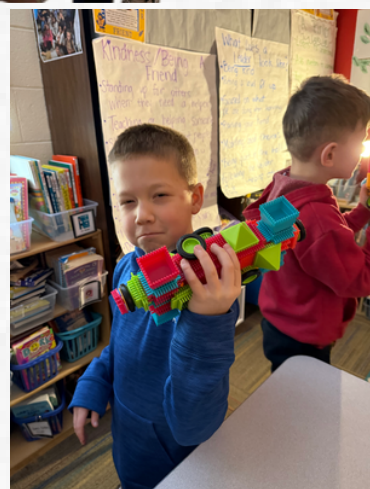
CREATIVITY CHALLENGES

- Builds creative confidence, idea generation, risk-taking, open-mindedness, and the willingness to explore
 - Used as beginning of the year community building, transitions, CKLA pause points, or end of year engagement and reflection
 - Secret handshakes and vignettes
 - Protest Signs
 - Gift Creation
 - Bookmark Design Challenge
 - Agents of Change reflections
 - Examples: [Sarah's link](#) and [Karmyn's link](#)
- 

CREATIVITY CHALLENGES

The collage features 15 photographs showcasing children's creativity and classroom activities:

- Top Left:** A girl smiling next to a string art project on a grey board.
- Top Center-Left:** Two boys holding a green paper boat with white paper figures inside.
- Top Center-Right:** Large orange text reading "CREATIVITY CHALLENGES".
- Middle Left (Top):** A wall covered in colorful sticky notes with drawings and text.
- Middle Left (Bottom):** A boy holding a colorful paper airplane.
- Middle Center-Left:** A girl's project featuring a white paper boat on a green paper lake, with a handwritten note: "I read the book called 'A Day in the Life of a Frog' by Armin Greder. I was inspired by it because it was about a frog that had to jump out of the water and walk for water and then back to her family. That's why I did this project." Signed "By: Juliette".
- Middle Center-Right:** A group of children in a classroom, some holding papers.
- Middle Right (Top):** Three boys standing behind a table with a blue and green paper boat project.
- Middle Right (Bottom):** A drawing of a pond with a green border, blue water, and a small brown object in the center. Below it is a handwritten note: "I made this pond because the pond had turtles in it. It was very pretty. The turtles were out there because they liked the sunlight. We saw a lot of fish hooks. A guy said that there were snakes in the pond. But we didn't see any. I thought it was fun."
- Bottom Left (Top):** A group of boys in a classroom.
- Bottom Left (Bottom):** A girl sitting on the floor, surrounded by colorful paper circles with various designs and text like "I will not give up", "I will be kind", "I will be brave", "I will be happy", "I will be smart", "I will be strong", "I will be kind", "I will be brave", "I will be happy", "I will be smart", "I will be strong".
- Bottom Center-Left:** A girl holding a small white paper boat.
- Bottom Center-Right:** A girl standing in a classroom, holding a paper.
- Bottom Right:** A boy holding a drawing of a dinosaur, with the word "dinosaur" written above it. The drawing includes a dinosaur, a person, and a house.



CREATIVITY CHALLENGES ARE GOOD FOR GIFTED LEARNERS, TOO

CHARACTERISTICS OF CREATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE STUDENTS:

ERIC Clearinghouse on Handicapped and Gifted Children. (1990). Giftedness and the gifted: What's it all about? (ERIC Document Reproduction Service No. ED321481). ERIC. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED321481.pdf>

Openness to
Experience

Setting
personal
standards for
evaluation

Ability to play
with ideas

Willingness to
take risks

Preference for
complexity

Tolerance for
ambiguity

Positive self-
image

Ability to
become
submerged in
a task



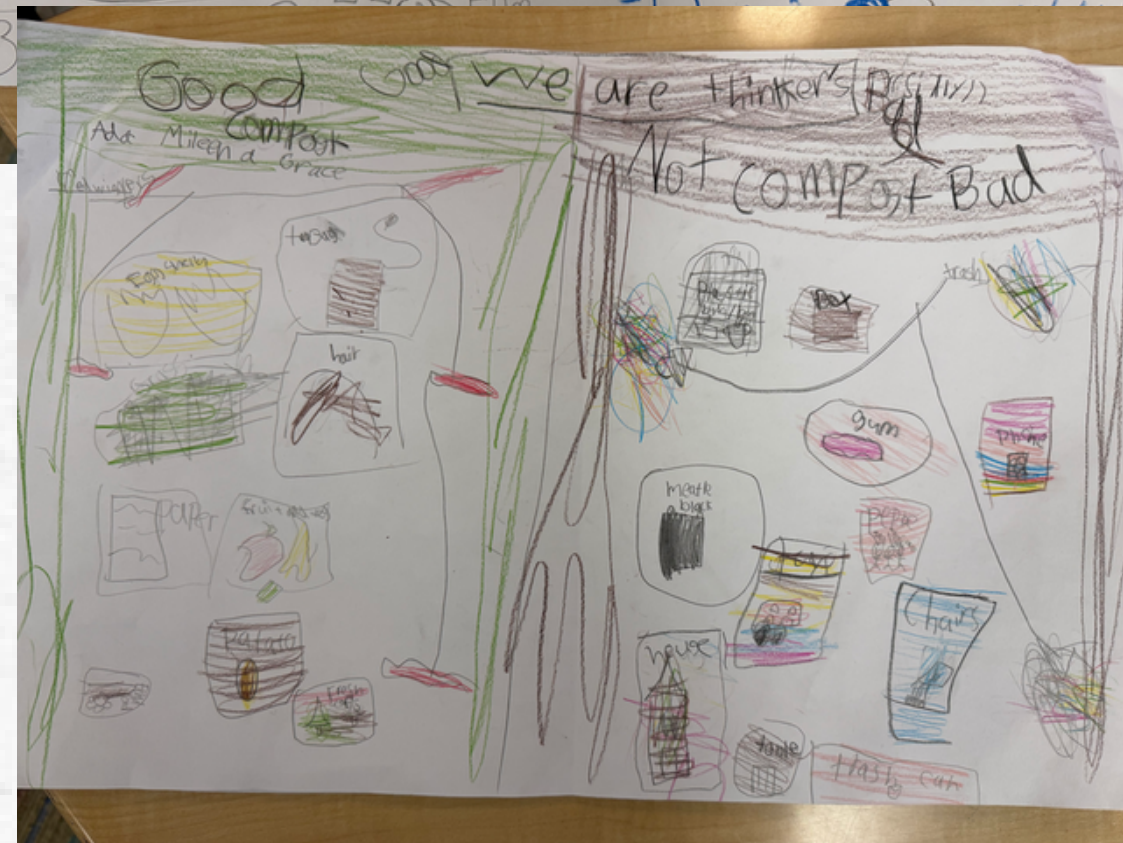
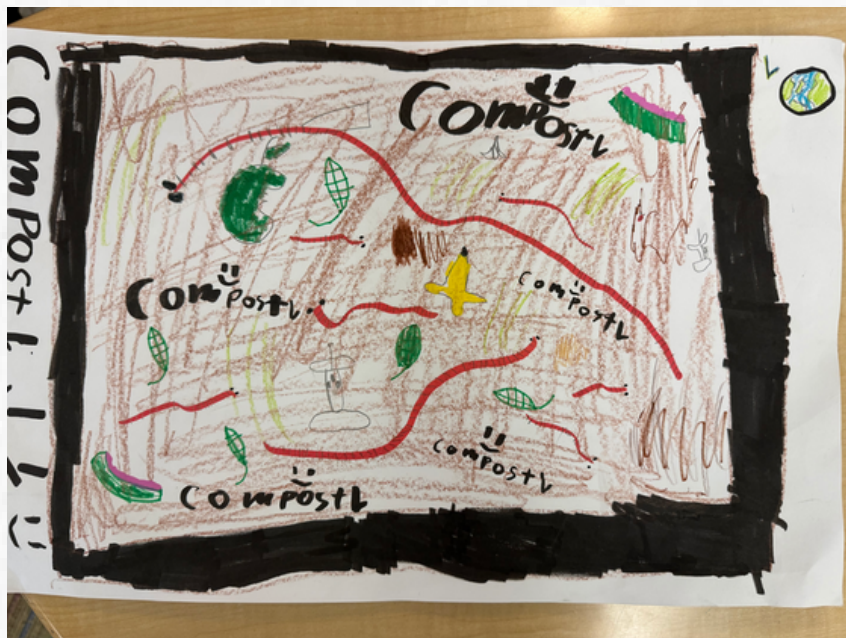
SERVICE LEARNING

- Student Council / Little Free Pantry
 - Character Ambassadors / Monthly Spirit Day Donations
 - Book/Postcards with a Purpose
 - Flowers and notes to Bickford Senior Living residents
 - Teaching the school community about Vermicomposting
- 

SERVICE LEARNING



SERVICE LEARNING



- Learning about Composting
- Taking care our our worms while composting at school
- Teaching our families and our school community!

SERVICE LEARNING IS GOOD FOR **GIFTED LEARNERS**, TOO

Work on
authentic
problems

Acquire real-
world skills

Focus on
problem
solving

Integrate
learners'
unique
abilities,
interests, and
learning styles

Develop
leadership
skills

Explore
specific
interests

Firsthand
active inquirers
rather than
passive
learners

Work with
adult
professionals
or mentors

Develop perspectives
larger than own abilities,
activities, experiences

OTHER ELA CONNECTIONS

01

Read Aloud
Books
Through the
Year

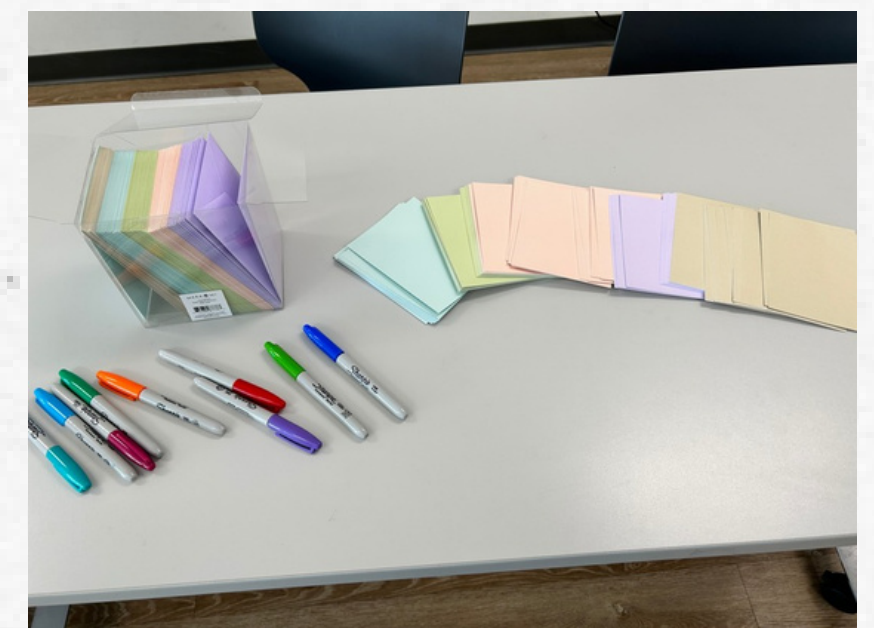
02

Choice
Reading &
Writing

03

Agents of
Change
Festival

OTHER ELA CONNECTIONS



PLANNING FOR GIFTED LEARNERS

Achievement Orientation

- Perfectionism
- Underachievement

Intensity and Isolation

- Unusual interests and abilities
- Advanced reasoning & sense of humor
- Heightened morality
- About *adults*

Assessment

- Tiered Assessments - Choice or assignment to complete more complex tasks as individual or group
- Open-ended tasks
- Rubrics could include a “Wow” or “Next” column (student generated?)
- ALL students encouraged to stretch
- SAFE stretching = Fair ‘grading’

Planning and Pacing

- Look for ways to add DEPTH and/ or COMPLEXITY within assignments
- Tiered Lessons - Choice or assignment to complete more complex tasks as individual or group
- Acceleration/ Compacting enables some students to move to “next” when ready



LET'S SHARE

Reflect on your own experiences.

What did you do to go beyond the curriculum?

What other ideas would you like to try?

Let's brainstorm!





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@KMETZGERLOVESLEARNING

KAREN:
KERUMLEY.26@GMAIL.COM



THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!