

RESPONDING TO LITERATURE IN A DIGITAL WORLD



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I initially wanted to focus on implementing a “true” writer’s workshop. The Covid Pandemic quickly changed my plans. Instead, I decided to provide my kindergarten students with opportunities, to use digital tools, to respond to literature.

Character Reveal Project

By October, we had read and talked about a variety of storybook characters and the PANIC of starting the school year virtually, had subsided (well...for the most part, anyway). Now, it was time to have some fun with characters! With the help of some teacher friends, the Character Reveal Project was created.

Character Reveal Project Directions

1. Choose a book character.
2. Write or type 3 sentences that describe your character. (Other students will try to guess the character based on your clues.)
3. Insert a picture of your character. This picture can be a photo of you dressed as the character, a drawing, a pumpkin decorated as the character, or an image from the internet.
4. Include the book title and author on the reveal slide.



On Friday, we will have fun playing, "Guess My Character!" Also, you may dress as your character. (Dressing as your character is optional.)

Character Clues

1. I live in a brick house
2. I am pink
3. I am afraid of wolves

Who am I?



Character Clues

1. I love my small bowl
2. I am brown
3. I am a brown bear

Who am I?



Character Reveal

Character Name:

Three little pigs

Book Title:

The three little pigs

Author:

James marshall



Character Reveal

Character Name:

Small bear

Book Title:

The three bears

Author:

Paul galdone



Character Clues

1. I am the leader of the Power Rangers!
2. My Favorite color is red!
3. I'm Always in the middle of all our pictures

Who am I?



Character Clues

1. He is a superhero.
2. He runs fast.
3. He wears red and yellow.

Who am I?



Character Reveal

Character Name:

Casey "The Red Ranger"

Book Title:

Power Rangers Jungle Fury

Author:

William Carter



Character Reveal

Character Name:

The Flash

Book Title:

The Flash

Author:

Frank Berrios



Character Clues

1. Tengo huesos (I have bones).
2. Doy miedo (I am scary)
3. Tengo hípos (I have hiccups)

Who am I?



Character Clues

1. I am blonde
2. I have sisters and lots of friends
3. I have tried many jobs

Who am I?



Character Reveal

Character Name:

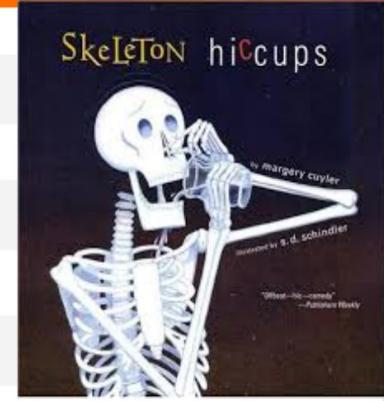
Skeleton

Book Title:

Skeleton Hiccups

Author:

Margery Cuyler



Character Reveal

Character Name:

I am....

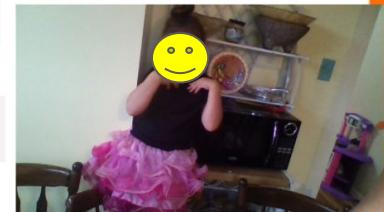
Barbie

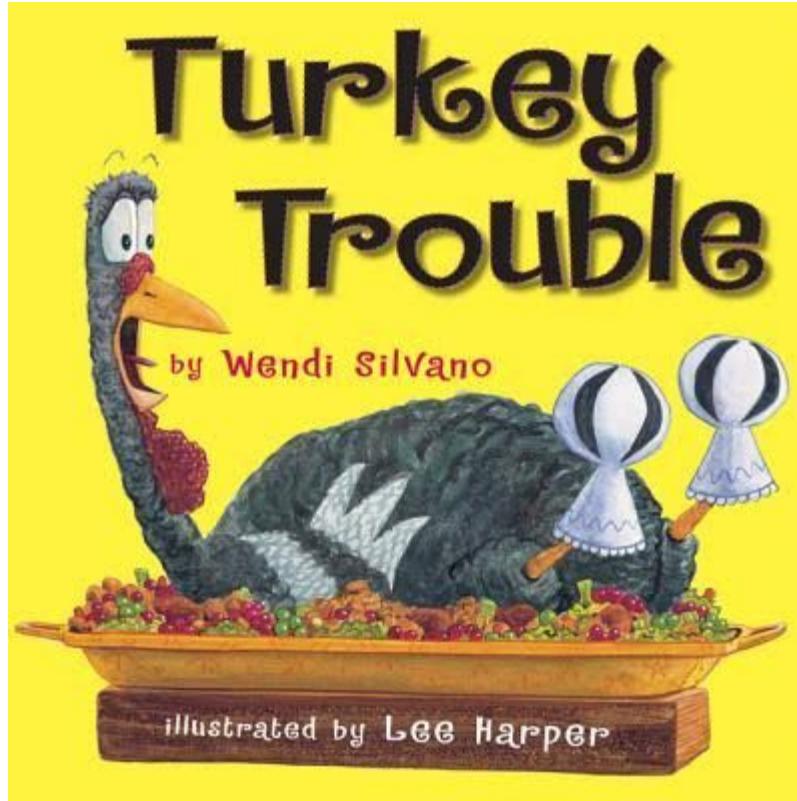
Book Title:

Barbie I Can Be... A
Ballerina

Author:

Christy Webster





The next project was inspired by the book, Turkey Trouble. For this project the students had to disguise Turkey, so that he would not get eaten. The students completed this activity in Nearpod.

I am not a
turkey. I am ...

Bumble bee



I am not a
turkey. I am ...



I am not a
turkey. I am ...
gumball
machine

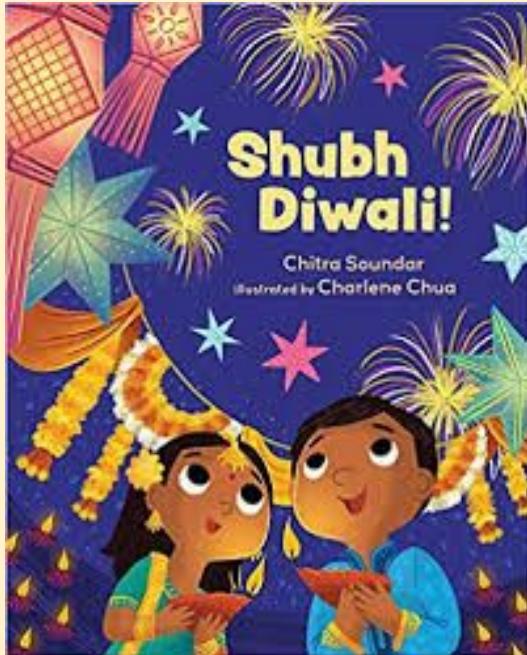


I am not a
turkey. I am ...



Celebrations Around the World

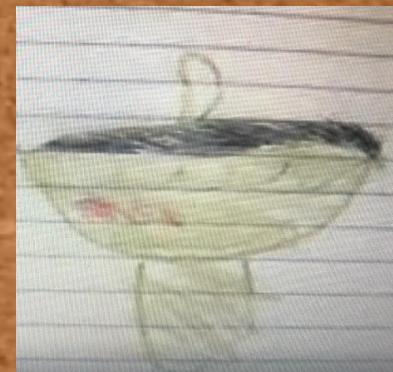
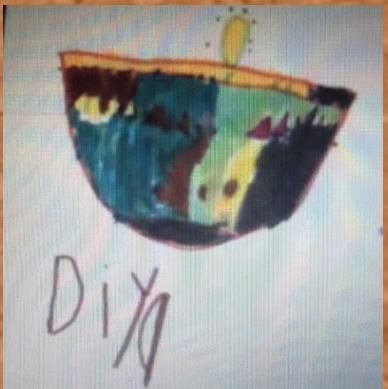
Each grade group chose a holiday to research. Then we compiled the information into a school wide virtual display. Kindergarten decided to focus on Diwali.

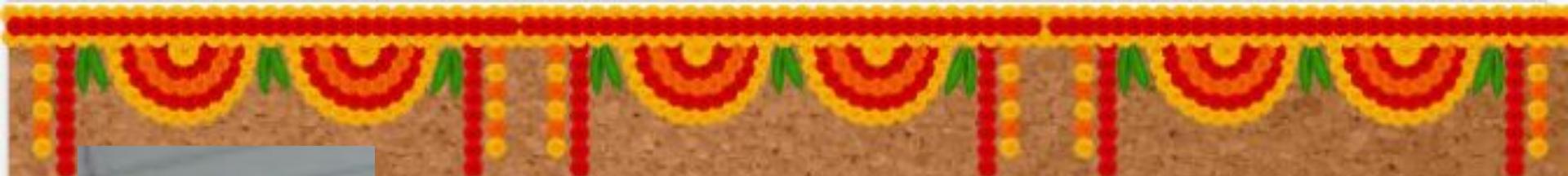


- We read about Diwali.
- We did a directed draw of a Diya.
- We displayed our drawings on a virtual corkboard.

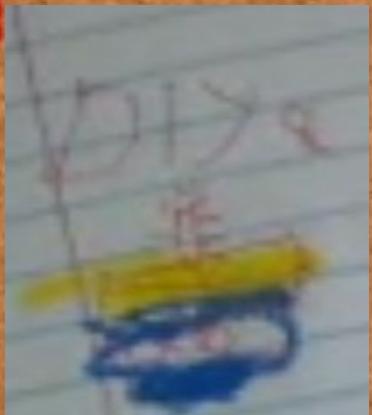
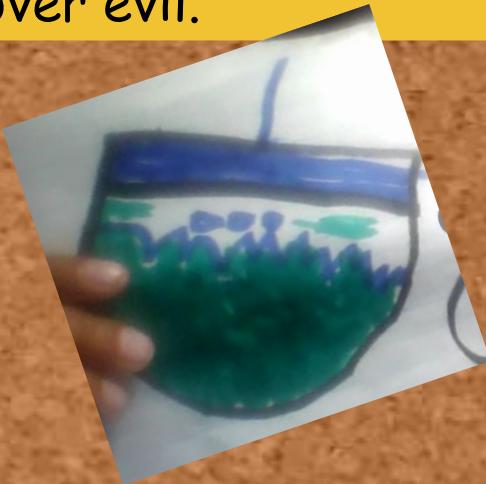


During Diwali, many people light Diyas. Diyas represent light over darkness and remind people that good wins over evil.

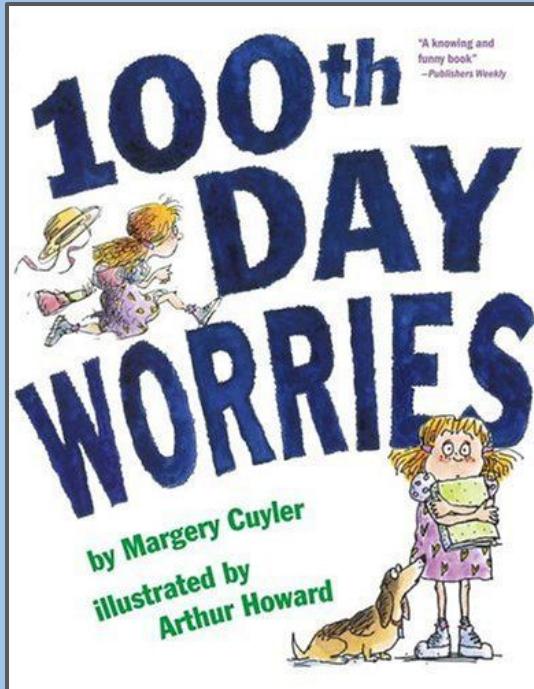




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100th Day Surprise Project



We read the book 100th Day Worries by Margery Cuyler and decided that we should find and share our own collections of 100. We decided that we wanted the collections to be a surprise, so the students wrote clues to describe their collection and called on classmates to guess (much like the character reveal project). The students loved when they were able to stump their friends!

My Clues...

Write or type your clues. You can write your clues on a seperate piece of paper and insert it here or you can type your clues in the boxes below.

Clue #1:oval

Clue #2:hard

Clue #3:Heavy



My Clues...

Write or type your clues. You can write your clues on a seperate piece of paper and insert it here or you can type your clues in the boxes below.

Clue #1: we eat it for breakfast

Clue #2: It is healthy

Clue #3: is yellow



My Clues...

Write or type your clues. You can write your clues on a seperate piece of paper and insert it here or you can type your clues in the boxes below.

Clue #1: It is something colorful.

Clue #2: It is hard. If you step on them it might hurt.

Clue #3: It is somethings that connects together.



My Clues...

Write or type your clues. You can write your clues on a separate piece of paper and insert it here or you can type your clues in the boxes below.

Clue #1: It's something yummy

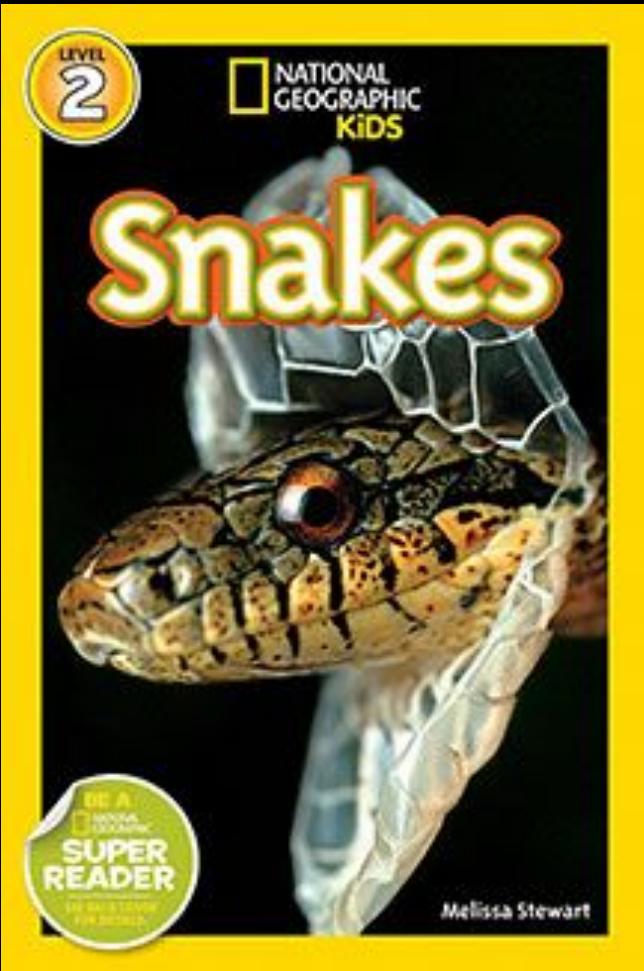
Clue #2: It's a circle like a donut

Clue #3: You eat it for breakfast



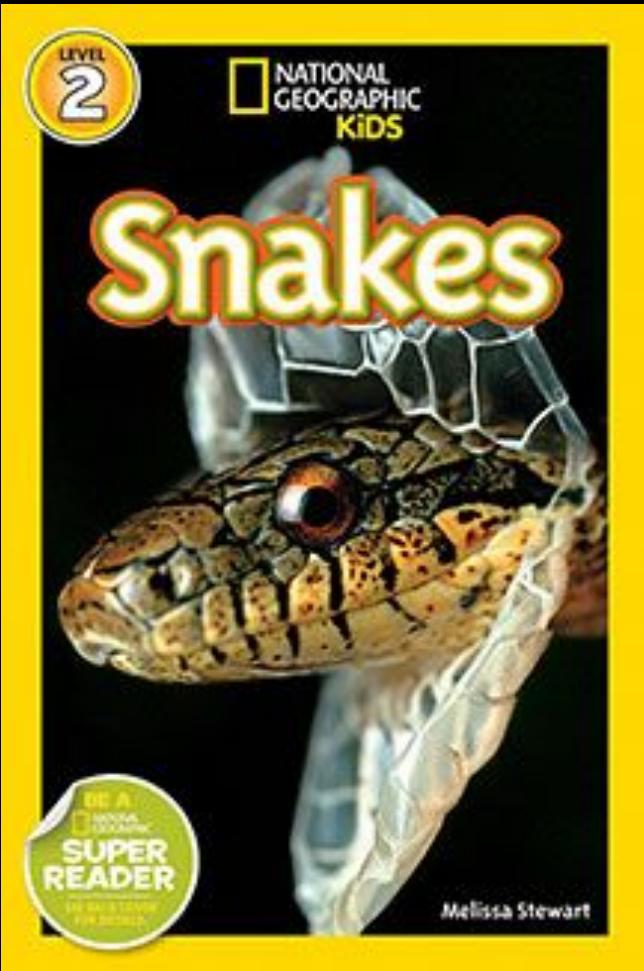
Noticeably Nonfiction

- We read the book Snakes by Melissa Stewart.
- Each student contributed something that they learned about snakes, to be added to our group slides.



Let's listen for interesting facts and words!

They can eat animals. Emily
Sometimes they bite. Kyle
They can eat a mouse. Eric
They eat eggs. Fatima
They find their home. They can live
almost anywhere. They can live at
the park. Stephanie



Let's listen for interesting facts and words!

They can eat frogs. Their skin stretches.

Isabella

Some snakes wrap around their prey and hold tight. Kade

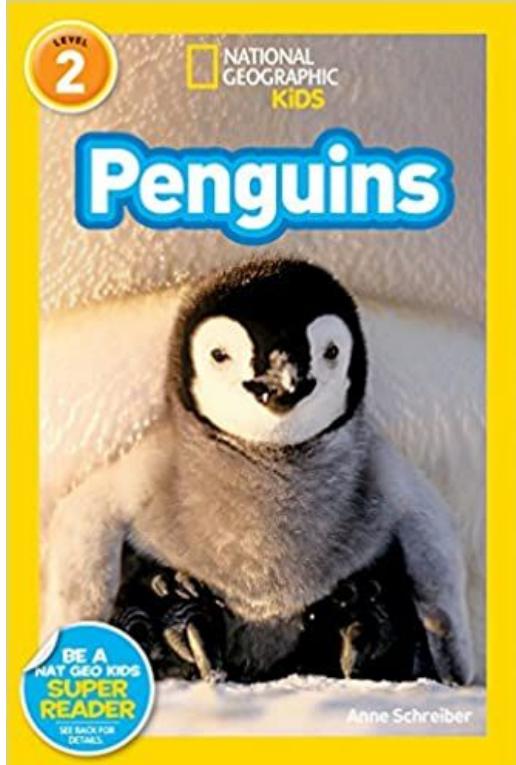
Some snakes live in caves. Fatima

Snakes have bones. Londyn

Snakes' skin comes off. Emily

A snake can have 1000 bones or even 26.

Aaris



- We also read Penguins by Anne Schreiber.
- Each student contributed a fact about penguins.
- Next, the students found a digital picture to illustrate their fact.
- We compiled the slides to create a class slide show about penguins.

Penguins have two feet and waddle when they walk.



Alan

They have webbed feet.



Isabella

Penguins play on the ice.



Stephanie

Penguins can walk really far. When penguins get out of the water, they jump. When they want to go fast, they slide on their bellies, on the ice.



Penguins swim to get away from predators. Seals and whales eat penguins. They lay eggs. They are called the birds of the sea.



Aaris

Concluding Thoughts

Each school year brings unique challenges. Of course, this school year was no different. However, teaching kindergarten virtually is a challenge that no one would have foreseen, prior to COVID. Luckily, children are resilient and adapted well. Fine motor skills and handwriting have been underdeveloped, while computer and digital skills have been enhanced.

My students enjoyed hearing and reading stories. They were able to make connections with books and one another. They enjoyed participating in and sharing their digital responses. Having a variety of opportunities to respond to stories helped them to stay engaged and to develop a deeper understanding of concepts.

In short, we made the best of a difficult situation. Now, more than ever, I look forward to a **BALANCE** as we return to in-person learning!