

Pourquoi Tales: Creating Stories of Why and How



Grade 3



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Grade 3 Storyland Write Up

"Pourquoi Tales: Creating Stories of Why and How"

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"We are all storytellers. We all live in a network of stories. There isn't a stronger connection between people than storytelling."

-Jimmy Neil Smith

Our grade three students have been exploring the world of Pourquoi Tales. These are origin stories that explain why or how something came to be in the natural world. Some examples include animals, plants and natural phenomena such as rainbows or volcanoes. Many cultures have different origin/creation stories. One famous indigenous creation story is How the Chipmunk Got Its Stripes. These stories give us a chance to learn about different cultures and times in history, helping us understand the world better and appreciate the environment around us.

We started by reading the students a variety of well known Pourquoi Tales. After reading a few stories, we then asked the students what similarities they noticed. For example, each story takes place a very long time ago, the characters are personified and the main character goes through a significant change. This discussion helped them understand that every Pourquoi Tale includes certain common elements.

We then embarked upon the writing process which began by brainstorming ideas and researching animals. Once the students had a character and the character's change in mind, they began by drafting the beginning, middle and end of their story. Each student then had the opportunity to revise and edit their rough drafts with a teacher. The last step before publishing was creating their illustrations to bring their tales to life!

The children have absolutely loved their journey in writing their own Pourquoi Tales and are eager to share their hard work with all of you!