

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION PROJECT 2023

指導教授：魏亦淳老師與楊禎禎老師
Dr. Sherri Wei and Prof. Jane Yang

Picture Book Making: *Dancing on the Canvas*

學生：廖悅如 撰
Ivy Yue-Ru Liao

408110522

Ivy Liao

Picture Books: Literature and Pedagogy

Learning Outcome Demonstration

2 Jan. 2023

The one semester Picture Books course has finally come to an end. Recollecting what I have got from this course, I feel deeply appreciated for the joy it brought to me through the four months. It was like a journey of fantasy, in which I explored the treasures of picture books and gained new understandings.

The course is mainly divided into two parts, including author introduction with the storytelling of their picture books and pedagogy planning, and there are so many new things I have learned. For picture book telling, the teacher would ask each student to take turns to read a few lines, and this was the time I realized the fact that everyone can tell the story, however, not everyone is a good storyteller. In terms of telling a story, especially to children, speaking it out loud is just the basic requirement. Since storytelling values interaction, readers have to think about a strategy to combine words and pictures perfectly, and deliver in an attractive way that sparks children's interest and motive to participate in the story time. Throughout several reading experiences in the semester, I found three principles really useful in helping storytelling. First, use manipulative props. For example, interacting with children by manipulating dolls of characters while reading the story. Jane, one of the teachers in the picture book course, often brought characters' plush toys to class. As a 22 years old university student, I found them so adorable that I could not resist playing with them; therefore, needless to mention how enchanting it will be to children. This will materialize the intangible story in children's minds, enriching their understanding of the story. Second,

asking questions regarding plot. Rendering questions and encouraging children to answer will make children feel more engaged. and will help reinforce their thinking ability. Last but not least, use various intonations to express the story. Imagine the reading as acting and play different roles in the story by using different voices. This will successfully grab the attention of children because they will consider it funny.

Besides storytelling, planning the pedagogy is also an important part in this course. Pedagogy design develops my critical thinking skills because it is not an easy task to think of both educational and entertaining lessons to create a good learning experience for children. However, it was a very interesting process while brainstorming lesson plans. When doing the thinking, deciding the age range of the target audience is the very first step because it reflects what kind of content there should be in the lesson plans. Then, identifying the messages we would like to bring to the target audience so that we could think about a specific way to bring up the topics.

We had several practices during the course, and I favored the one my group designed for *The crocodile who didn't like water*, a book about self-identity, in which a crocodile finds that he is not like his family members who all like water. Therefore, in the lesson plan, we decided to divide it into three sections, before the reading, during the reading, and after the reading. First, we will ask children about their own definition of a crocodile. Then, in the storytelling process, we will ask them to identify the emotions of the crocodile by raising questions such as “What do the crocodile feel now?” and “Why do you think he feels this way?” After finishing the story, we will play the musical chairs game to bring up the main message of the story, which is to know that it is fine to be different from others because everyone is born with their own value. Through the practice, we got to get closer to children’s minds and learned how to design an interesting picture book lesson that would arouse their energy to participate in learning and playing.

Because of the great interest in picture books rendered by the course, I chose to make my own picture book for the final individual project. It took me two months to create it till it was finished, and there were many books that inspired me while writing the story. I came up with the protagonist in my story very soon, which is a dog with blue fur wearing a pair of orange shoes named Blue. The idea came from two picture books. The first one is *Clifford the Big Red Dog* by Norman Bridwell, which played an important part in my childhood memory and fascinated me with the dog having all red fur. The second book is *Little Blue and Little Yellow* by Leo Lionni. Although it was not until I took this course that I learned about this book, the very first time I read it, I was impressed by its brilliant and interesting plot, in which blue and yellow hugs each other becomes green. Therefore, combining the concept of the two picture books, it gave me the inspiration of creating a dog's character in completely blue color who dyes things with his bare feet.

Since I love all picture books dealing with the issue of self-identity, I decided to write a story focusing on this theme, too. Although there are plenty of books dealing with the issue of searching for self-identity, my inspiration is mostly from *Elmer the Patchwork Elephant*, written by David McKee, for that Elmer is the one that not only covers the concepts I want to deliver such as embracing difference, being happy to play, and being yourself, but uses color difference to bring up these topics. Therefore, it inspires me to create a character that is also different and encounters obstacles and frustrations because of his color. However, in the end, he is able to cherish his value and enjoy playing without any worries and fears.

There was also a drawing idea that came to me while reading *A sick day for Amos McGee* by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead. In the picture book, the illustrator draws some small characters and hides them in the story, which makes me laugh while reading. For example, the picture in which Amos Macgee is waiting for the bus to the zoo, and the little mouse is also waiting for transportation by standing beside a tiny bus top sign in the corner of

the page. When I was reading this picture book, I found it very interesting, so I added the concept to my drawing by creating a bunny character, who is supposed to say goodbye to Blue but ends up following him in the whole journey.

The purpose of me writing such a story is to tell that it is fine to be yourself and never be frustrated because of differences since everyone has their own values. There are always places where people can show their value and capability perfectly. Also, I want to deliver the message that it is fairly normal that people mess up things accidentally in their lives, and sometimes it brings hurtful blames; however, it does not mean their self value and the right of having a good time should be deprived forever. Instead, everyone deserves to enjoy the brightness in their lives.

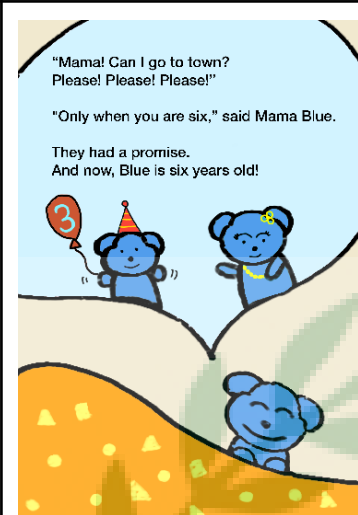
Because of taking this course, I have read so many picture books in the last four months. Speaking of my favorite one, it would be *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers. In the story, a penguin comes to a boy's house. The boy thought he was lost, so a journey of sending the penguin back to the South Pole starts. In the end, he realizes that the penguin is not lost; instead, he just desires companionship. It is a simple story, however, the rich context and the beautiful sequences of the illustrations make this picture book shine with great charm. As the story proceeds, I feel like I'm a traveler who is also involved in the journey of the boy and the penguin, wishing that they would be able to arrive at the ideal and beautiful destination eventually. Recalling the time I read this story, I still feel heartwarming for the message it delivers, which I think is that people are being lonely and feeling lost in the world, but chances are that they will eventually find something or someone that adds irreplaceable value to their lives. It means a lot to me.

I then realize this is one of the picture books' magics. People can always learn a lifetime lesson from a very simple story and beautiful illustrations. It brings readers various reading experiences each time they unfold the books, making them the literature work

comprising educated meanings, reading skill training, and healing power for both children and adults! To conclude, what I have got from this course is not just critical knowledge such as pedagogy planning and storytelling skill. For me, the most important thing is that the course brings me great interest and love for picture books, and I believe my enthusiasm will last forever.

Individual Final Project: Picture Book Making

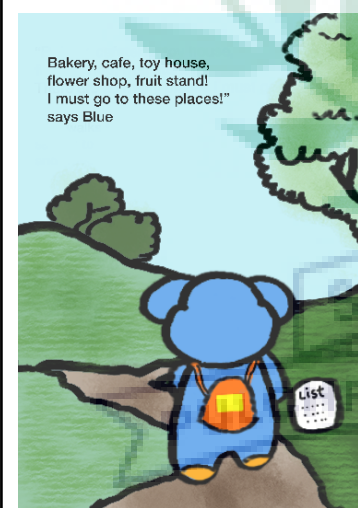
 <p>Dancing on the Canvas Written and Illustrated by Ivy Liao</p>	<p>Dancing on the Canvas</p>
 <p>Today is a big day. It is Blue's six-years-old birthday.</p>	<p>Today is a big day. It is Blue's six-years-old birthday.</p>



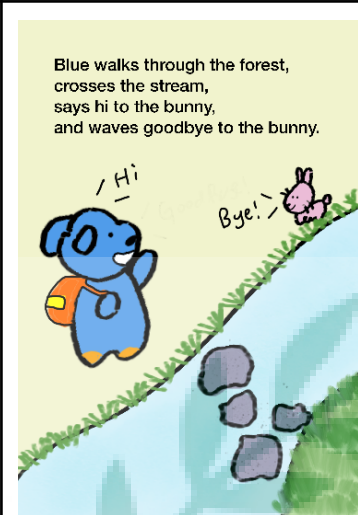
"Mama! Can I go to town? Please! Please! Please!"
"You can go to the town when you are six," said Mama Blue.
They had a promise. And now, Blue is six years old!



Blue jumps out the bed immediately,
brushes his teeth and washes his face quickly,
packs his backpack speedily,
and dashes out the door hurriedly.



"Bakery, cafeteria, toy house, flower shop, fruit stand!
There are so many places I must go!" says Blue.



Blue walks through the forest, crosses the stream, says hi to the bunny, and waves goodbye to the bunny.



Finally, he sees the town. There are so many people. Blue is a bit nervous, but mostly, he is EXCITED!



Blue enters a bakery. He buys a loaf of bread. It is so warm... and Yummy!



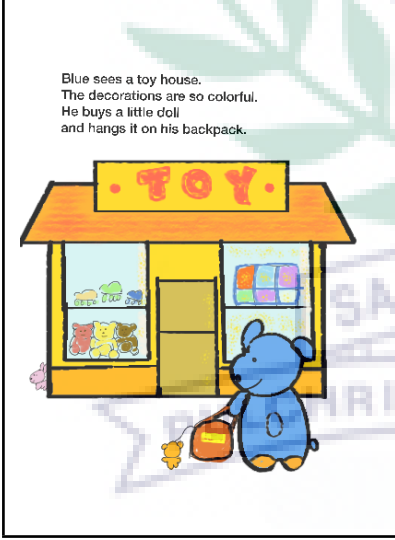
Blue passes by a cafe.
Coffee smells so good.
The clerk says coffee tastes bitter,
so Blue changes his mind.

Blue passes by a cafe. The coffee smells so good.
The clerk says coffee tastes bitter, so Blue changes his mind.



He orders a hot chocolate.
It is so warm... and Yummy!

He orders a hot chocolate.
It is so warm... and Yummy!



Blue sees a toy house.
The decorations are so colorful.
He buys a little doll
and hangs it on his backpack.

Blue sees a toy house. The decorations are so colorful.
He buys a little doll and hangs it on his backpack.

Now he fills his stomach and has a little souvenir for the adventure.
It is time to buy some gifts for Mama Blue.

"Mama likes flowers, maybe I'll buy a bouquet!"

"I remember there are no apples at home, maybe I'll bring some!" says Blue.



Now he fills his stomach and has a little souvenir for the adventure.
It is time to buy some gifts for Mama Blue.

"Mama likes flowers, maybe I'll buy a bouquet!"

"I remember there are no apples at home, maybe I'll bring some!"

Blue dances and jumps happily towards the fruit stand.

Suddenly, he is stumbled by a rock in the middle of the street!
His shoes are broken, and he hit the fruit stand.



Blue dances and jumps happily towards the fruit stand.
Suddenly, he is stumbled by a rock in the middle of the street!
His shoes are broken, and he hit the fruit stand.

Fruit falls down and rolls to the street.
Blue steps on the fruit.
He could not find the balance!



Fruit falls down and rolls to the street.
Blue steps on the fruit. He could not find the balance!

Finally, Blue stands still.
He steps backwards
and looks at the mess.



Finally, Blue stands still.
He steps backwards and looks at the mess.

"What are you doing?
Look what you do to my fruit!
You dye them!" says the seller.

Blue is scared.
He doesn't know what to do,
so he keeps apologizing and then runs away.



"What are you doing? Look what you do to my fruit! You dye them!" says the seller.

Blue is scared.
He doesn't know what to do, so he keeps apologizing and then runs away.

Run, and run, and run.
Blue runs through a pedestrian arcade
where a cleaner is mopping.



Run, and run, and run.
Blue runs through a pedestrian arcade where a cleaner is mopping.

"What are you doing?
Look what you do to the floor!
I just mop it clean and you dye it!"
says the cleaner.

Blue is scared.
He doesn't know what to do,
so he keeps apologizing
and then runs away.



"What are you doing? Look what you do to the floor!
"I just mop it clean and you dye it!" says the cleaner.

Blue is scared.
He doesn't know what to do, so he keeps apologizing and then runs away.

"I must find a shoe's store," says Blue.

Blue does not stop his feet.
He keeps running, and running, and running.

But he cannot find a shoe's store.



"I must find a shoe's store," said Blue.

Blue does not stop his feet. He keeps running, and running, and running.

But he cannot find a shoe's store.

Blue is exhausted and frustrated.
He walks into a seemingly empty building,
trying to escape from everything.

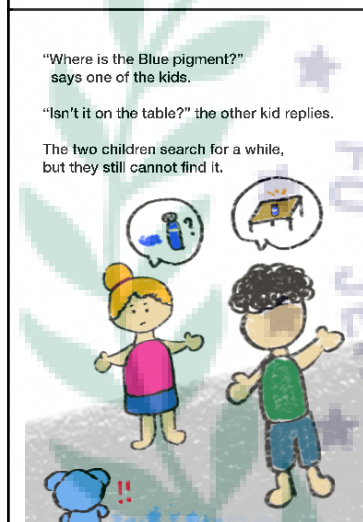


Blue is exhausted and frustrated.
He walks into a seemingly empty building, trying to escape from everything.



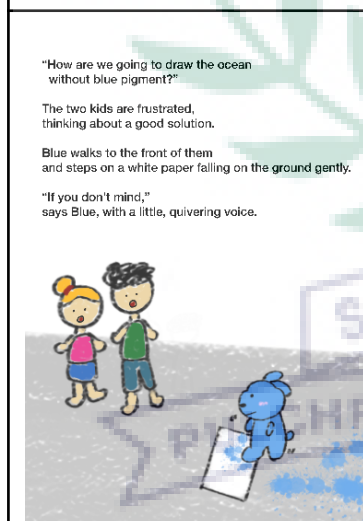
Blue sees two kids painting together.
The painting is so beautiful that it amazes Blue.
He sits quietly in the corner of the room.
No one notices him.

Blue sees two kids painting together.
The painting is so beautiful that it amazes Blue.
He sits quietly in the corner of the room. No one notices him.



"Where is the Blue pigment?"
says one of the kids.
"Isn't it on the table?" the other kid replies.
The two children search for a while,
but they still cannot find it.

"Where is the Blue pigment?" says one of the kids.
"Isn't it on the table?" the other kid replies.
The two kids search for a while, but they still cannot find it.



"How are we going to draw the ocean
without blue pigment?"
The two kids are frustrated,
thinking about a good solution.
Blue walks to the front of them
and steps on a white paper falling on the ground gently.
"If you don't mind,"
says Blue, with a little, quivering voice.

"How are we going to draw the ocean without blue pigment?"
The two kids are frustrated, thinking about a good solution.
Blue walks to the front of them
and steps on a white paper falling on the ground gently.
"If you don't mind," says Blue, with a little, quivering voice.

The two kids first look at each other, then they both smile at Blue.

"This is the most beautiful blue we've ever seen," they say happily.

Blue is so happy. Suddenly, he forgets all the bad things that happened on the street.



The two kids first look at each other, then they both smile at Blue.
 "This is the most beautiful blue we've ever seen," they say happily.

Blue is so happy.
 Suddenly, he forgets all the bad things that happened on the street.

The two kids put the big canvas on the floor. Blue stands on the canvas carefully.

One step, two steps, three steps ... The white ocean starts being colored in blue



The two kids put the big canvas on the floor. Blue stands on the canvas carefully.

One step, two steps, three steps ... The white ocean starts being colored in blue

Then, Blue starts dancing. He is so happy that he does not want to stop his feet.

The painting becomes so beautiful that it amazes the two kids.



Then, Blue starts dancing. He is so happy that he does not want to stop his feet.

The painting becomes so beautiful that it amazes the two kids.

 <p>Today is a big day. It is Blue's six-years-old birthday. And, he has the best time in his first journey to the town.</p>	<p>Today is a big day. It is Blue's six-years-old birthday. And, he has the best time in his first journey to the town.</p>
	<p>The End</p>

Final Presentation

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFWHvJsWWU/uZgfNjpX54VZfJDjMruNfg/view?utm_content=DAFWHvJsWWU&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

Reading Journals

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFNMeBLi9c/wUPqDS_kj-lnZh_-cTCZPg/view?utm_content=DAFNMeBLi9c&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink