

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
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Self-Made Picture Book — *A Thank-You Letter*

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Learning Outcome Demonstration Project Written Report

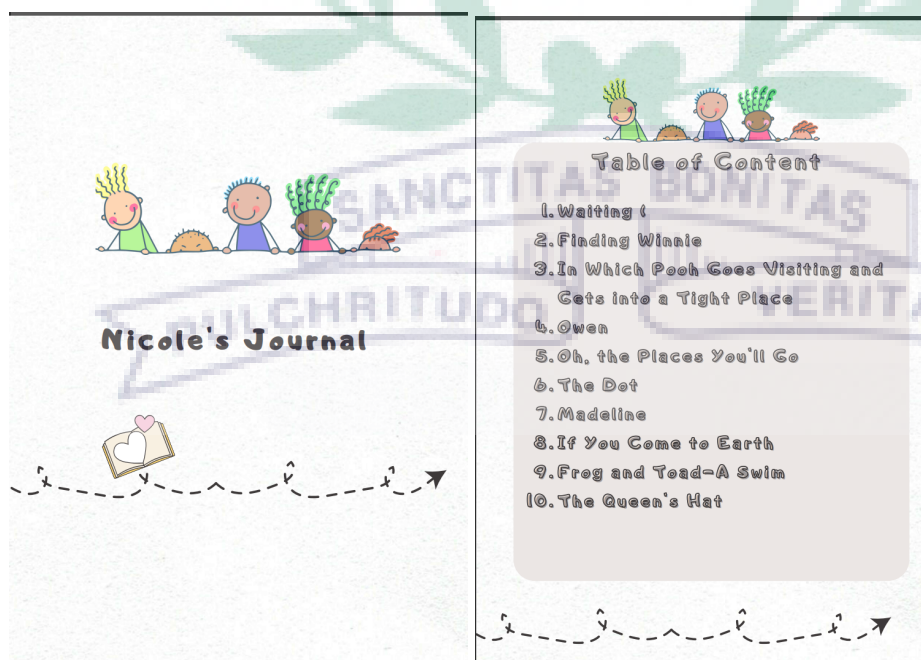
Picture Books: Literature and Pedagogy

Personal Projects

- **Journal**

- 10 journals in total
- Review content: comment+reflection
- Form: text+collage (using *Canva*)
- Picture books I reviewed include:
 1. *Waiting*
 2. *Finding Winnie*
 3. *In Which Pooh Goes Visiting and Gets into a Tight Place*
 4. *Owen*
 5. *Oh, the Places You'll Go*
 6. *The Dot*
 7. *Madeline*
 8. *If You Come to Earth*
 9. *Frog and Toad- A Swim*
 10. *The Queen's Hat*

Inside the journal (excerpt only):



#Life philosophy
#Healing

Caldecott Medal

Waiting



01



WAITING
KEVIN HENKES

Waiting, like *Owen*, is another masterpiece written by Kevin Henkes that won the Caldecott award. With simple, easily-understood language and lovely illustrations, in this book, Henkes touches upon the very fundamental, ubiquitous theme in everyone's life, that is, by the name of the book, waiting.

After reading the book, what keeps hovering in my mind is about the purpose of waiting. I begin to think about what kind of mindset, mood we should hold- while we are waiting. In the story, we have the owl, the pig, the bear, the poppy, and the rabbit. Each of them has their specific purpose of waiting. But, one day, out of the sudden, they are joined by a new friend, the cat, who, unlike the others, waits without a certain purpose. He simply joins them and keeps waiting. Yet, can someone say that he gains nothing just because he waits for nothing? Probably not. During the period of time, along with others, from the window, he witnesses, and experiences the changing seasons, the splendor and beauty of the scenery, either the falling snow and leaves, flowers floating freely in the air. Or, perhaps, he simply enjoys the companionship of the others, the memory they made together.

At some points of life, each of us all has to go through a certain period of waiting, either a short one or a long one. It is an inescapable, inevitable phase that one must experience in the circle of life. When I look into the character of the cat, I start to ponder that maybe waiting can be more than the mere blank, the intervals we fill in before reaching the timing for our reward, our results to ripe, or our wish to come, where there is only unrest waiting for us. Rather, it can be a period of time which we find pleasurable. Learning how to enjoy the time of waiting is also an important life lesson. After all, it is a part of our life journey, why not make it special and amusing?



02

#Friendship between a veterinarian and a bear
#Winnie the Pooh

Finding Winnie



03



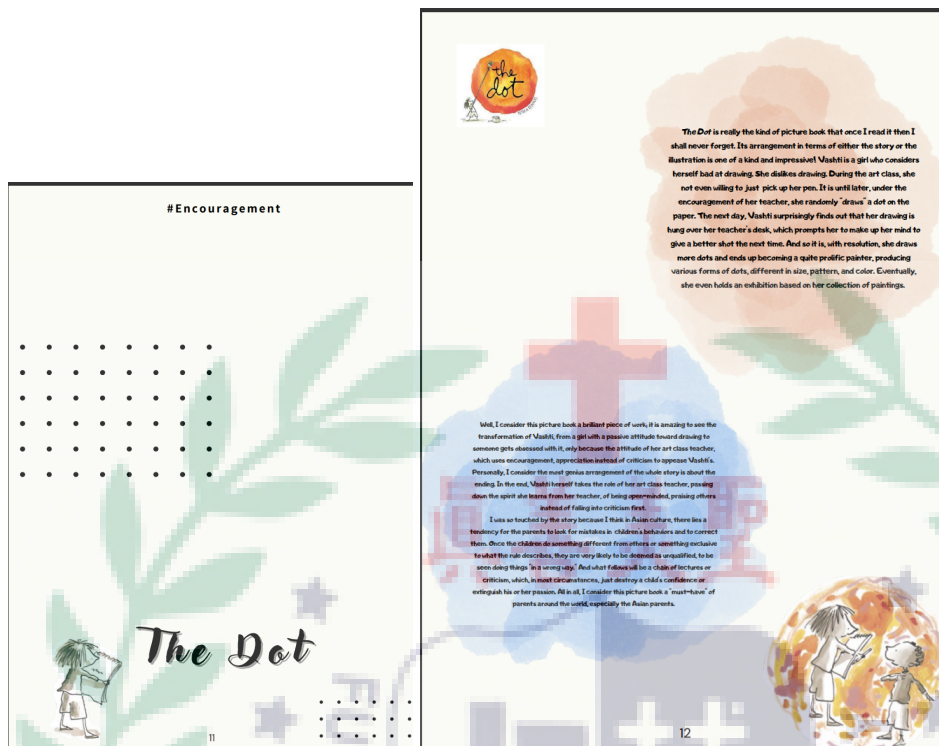
Finding Winnie

Winnie the Pooh, has long been known to the public as a comical, adorable fictional character featured in Disney films as well as the protagonist featured in A. A. Milne's series of picture books. But the prototype of this "silly old Bear," as described by Christopher Robins, actually, can be traced back to a lovely friendship between a veterinarian and an infant little bear during WWI, which is the background this picture book sets in.

The story follows Harry, a WWI veterinarian's journey to the battlefield in Canada. Midway during his trip, unexpectedly, at a train station, he comes across a bear, which is, of course, Winnie, and cannot help but make up his mind to take her away, bargaining with the trapper using the twenty dollars in his pocket. Just like that, later on during the journey, not only joined by his fellow soldiers, a group of horses, he was also joined by this infant bear, which, he later on gives the name, Winnie. Along the way, they live together. Winnie goes wherever Harry goes. They stretch across the endless prairie. With boats, they sail across the sea. But, by the time when Harry is demanded to part with Winnie, reluctantly, he sends Winnie to The London Zoo, where A. A. Milne, the author of Winnie the Pooh, and his son, Christopher make their encounter with Winnie. And the story is passed down without an end.

The story itself is so touching and kind of hard-to-believe. Friendship between a veterinarian and a bear midway during the war, a time with chaos and dismay? Amazing! It makes me wonder that it is with what kind of mindset and determination, Harry decides to take Winnie by his side in such a turbulent time. I was really taken aback after knowing this is based on a real-life story, their friendship is just so amazing-

04



● **Final Project: Self-Made Picture Book — A Thank-You Letter**

- Story content: A little girl showing gratitude to her body (different body parts: eyes, nose, ears etc.)
- Goal/teaching application: teach children to be thankful for what they have and don't take things as granted; identify different body parts in English
- Inspiration: Helen Keller's *Three Days to See*
- Form: text+collage(illustration drawn by me (digital art)+ images and pictures on Canva)

Inside the picture book (excerpt only):



A Thank-You Letter



真善美聖

This is a Thank-You Letter to...



My body!







In-Class Activities & Group Project

- **Lesson plan designs** based on designated picture books E.g. *Good Night, Gorilla*, *The Dot*
- **Group report** on Kevin Henkes

Reflection

This course offers me a wonderful opportunity to know more about the picture book industry. During the class, the teachers introduce multiple aspects regarding picture books, such as the origin of picture books, the awards related to picture books, and a good many renowned picture book authors abroad and their fabulous works. It is always enjoyable to take in these cute, delicate illustrations and the interesting story plot, to peer into the world of children using picture books. Sometimes, in groups, we will be asked to brainstorm on picture book-related teaching strategies, for example, lesson plan designs based on certain picture books or the methods of incorporating teaching theories into picture book teaching. Because most of them are intended to trigger the interest of kids, I think these are good practices that really encourage me to think more creatively.

For my final project, I worked on a self-made picture book— *A Thank-You Letter*. The inspiration of this picture book comes from Helen Keller's *Three Days to See*. In this book, Helen Keller, as a visually-impaired person who longs to take in the beauty of the world, heartily points out that normal, healthy people usually don't make the full use of their senses but to take them as granted. I think the problem she raises in this book is really a ubiquitous one now facing modern society. Nowadays, it has become more and more common to see a kid staying at home all day in front of an iPad or sitting in front of a computer playing games. That is really a pity, a waste of time if we see things from Helen's perspective. Therefore, in my picture book, I want to expand a little bit more from the theme in *Three Days to See*. In this picture book, through appreciating different body parts, I hope the children will be encouraged to think more broadly about what they can do using their body. During the process of brainstorming, maybe it can also encourage them to try and explore the possibilities of the functions of their body. Also, as the title of this picture book suggests, I hope they can build up the attitude to show gratitude for what they have, not only their body but everything they have. Even though this is my first time making the picture books, I have to admit, it is kind of difficult at the very beginning while I was brainstorming for the ideas. Sometimes I will also feel frustrated with the drawing since digital art is something I am not familiar with. It took me quite a lot of time and effort to finish this picture book, but I found the process quite enjoyable. When I finished it and showed it to my classmates for the first time, I was really overjoyed by the sense of accomplishment.

In addition to classroom teaching and in-class activities, the two guest speeches are very inspiring as well. In the first guest speech, we were introduced to some interesting picture

book-based activities to better draw the attention of the students, such as singing along, matching games, interactive activities etc. On top of that, I learned the importance of immersive learning, that is, how to incorporate picture books into teaching in more creative ways, to make the kids feel like they are playing, but meanwhile, also build up their language skills unconsciously, which, I consider as one of the most critical strengths of applying picture books into teaching. As for the second guest speech, the speaker himself is actually a picture book author. He shares with us his experience in the picture book industry generously; I really learned a lot from him. During the speech, he pointed out several features of a successful picture book and some useful advice for making a picture book. For example, he mentions that the content of the story will be easier to resonate with the kids if the story content revolves around the everyday life of children, even if they are depicting some things that are common, trivial in our daily life like family or school. The main point is to make it interesting using our imagination and creativity, or to infuse it with context, with storyline. He also points out that it is important for a picture book to tell a story with both the words and the illustrations. Because the illustration and the text will be read together, they should cooperate with each other, reserve imagination for the other one, instead of developing the story independently. For becoming a picture book illustrator, you don't even have to be really talented in drawing, according to him. In addition to hand-made drawing, there are multiple other kinds of measures to make good illustrations. For example, paper and photo collage, or even sand or stone arrangement will do. Overall, I think his advice and career life as an experienced picture book illustrator is so inspiring and really helps me identify the key elements of a good picture book and gives me confidence to make a picture book. It is really because of this guest speech that I decided to work on my own picture book for the final project.

Through this course, I profoundly realize that picture books can serve as very useful textbooks while teaching. In addition, I believe if teachers can use picture books creatively, it can be not merely a textbook, but a much more powerful one. With the lively illustration, interesting, humorous storyline, and a good storyteller, picture books are helpful in capturing the attention of young kids, making them better engaged in the class. Also, picture books also allow the teachers to expand the in-class activities in many different ways. As someone who is interested in teaching, I will continue my passion for picture books. I am pretty sure picture books will fall into one of the very first candidates when it comes to my choice of teaching textbooks in the future.