

# Making Learning Visible Poems, Photographs and Reflections

Where The Wild Things Are—A Cross-Age, Integrated Language And Visual Arts Poetry Writing And Bookmaking Project In Praise Of The Wild Animals All Around Us  
 Cathleen Micheaels—Arena Union Elementary School, 2013-2014



Ms. Schmitz With Completed Model Animal Ode Slat Book At Pre-Project Planning Session

**Ode To A Wild Honey Eater**

Oh, aggressive, intelligent grizzly bear,  
 you are the color of milk chocolate  
 that is sweet like honey,  
 you are like an enormous house  
 that is full of people,  
 native of northern regions,  
 you teach us how to live in the wild.

Cody Chávez, 1st Grade



8th Graders Looking At Photo Display From Last Year's Project During First Class Session



Ms. Rodriguez Reading Model Ode Aloud From Model Slat Book To 1st Graders



8th Graders Looking At Animal Fact Cards And Selecting Animals For Tribute Poems



Ms. Schmitz Reading Model Ode Aloud From Model Slat Book To 1st Graders



8th Grader Helping 1st Grade Art Buddy Learn Facts And Write Animal Ode



1st Grader "Guest Poet" Reading Finished Ode Aloud With 8th Grade Art Buddy



8th Grader Helping 1st Grade Art Buddy Learn Facts And Write Animal Ode



8th Grader Transcribing Tribute Poem In Color Art Pens Onto Dos á Dos Book Pages

### Project Feedback

Teacher And Principal Comments On The Project

Cathleen is a great example of how organization and preparedness creates a flowing lesson where students are engaged—she is excellent!

*Michelle Egger, 8th Grade Teacher*

A truly inspiring aspect of [the final] book exhibit and poetry presentation is how the event brings both the school and families together to build and support students' public speaking and presentation skills—[the] 1st graders [who] step up to the microphone and share their poems by reading them aloud with remarkable skill and pride.

*Paula Patterson, Principal*



1st Grader Transcribing Ode Poem Onto Slat Book "Good" Poem Page Paper



8th Grader Using Tile And Encaustic Tools To Make Decorative Paste Paper

**For The King Of The Highlands**

For the hairy, lumbering  
king of the jungle,  
who is the color of extra dark chocolate,  
who lives in the highlands and mountains of Africa,  
who moves aggressively and stands its ground,  
who is like an unmoving statue,  
who loves to relax, be social and groom  
and teaches us how to defend ourselves.

*Fabian D. Rodríguez, 8th Grade*



### For The Unique Keeper Of Stripes

For the skittish, on the move  
keeper of distinctive stripes,  
who is the color of old-fashioned movies,  
who is found in the grasslands of Africa,  
who gallops with speed in a herd,  
who is as confusing as math,  
who loves to be unique  
and shows us how to ignore our enemies.

*Briceida Pineda, 8th Grade*



1st Grader Using Tile Tool To Make Wavy Lines In Decorative Paste Paper



1st Grader Using Tile Tool To Make Wavy Lines In Decorative Paste Paper



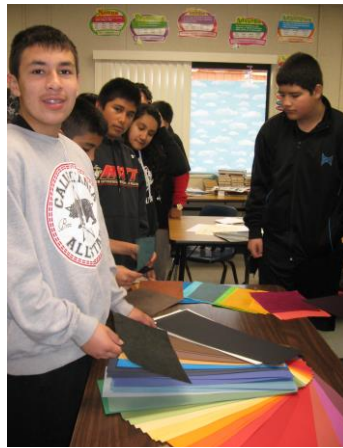
1st Graders Transcribing Animal Odes In Color Art Pens Onto Slat Book Pages



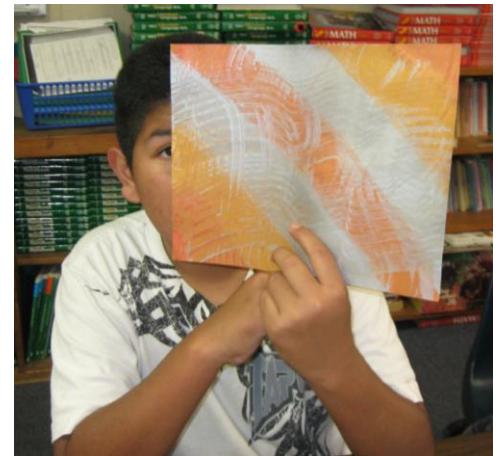
1st Graders Transcribing Odes In Color Art Pens Onto Slat Book Pages



8th Grader With Final Zig-Zag Lined Decorative Paste Paper



8th Graders Selecting Cover And Accordion Papers For Dos á Dos Books



8th Grader With Final Multi-Lined Decorative Paste Paper



8th Grader Printing Miniature Block Animal Prints With Archival Inks

### Ode To A Fluffy Swimmer

Oh, fluffy, snowy polar bear,  
you are the color of a marshmallow  
that is puffy,  
you are like a giant cozy blanket  
that keeps me warm,  
native of the Arctic,  
you show us how to swim in cold water.

Yesenia Torres, 1st Grade



### For The Shy Prince Of Australia

For the shy, climbing  
prince of the eucalyptus trees,  
who is the color of a dusty road,  
who lives high in the eucalyptus trees of Australia,  
whose babies like to take piggy back rides,  
who is like a sleepy sloth,  
who loves to eat at night in the dark  
and shows us how to climb high up into the trees.

Jose Fuentes, 8th Grade



8th Grader Printing Miniature Block Animal Prints With Archival Inks



8th Grader Helping 1st Grade Art Buddy Fold Mountains And Valleys Into Accordion



8th Graders Folding Mountains And Valleys For Dos á Dos Book Structure Accordions



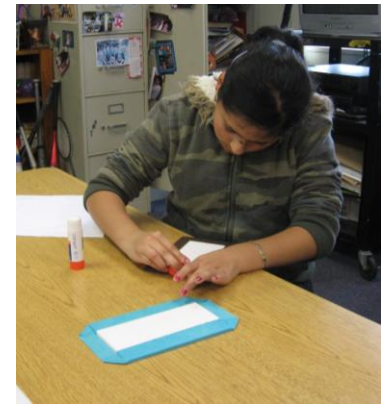
1st Grader Gluing Slat Book Covers With 8th Grade Art Buddy



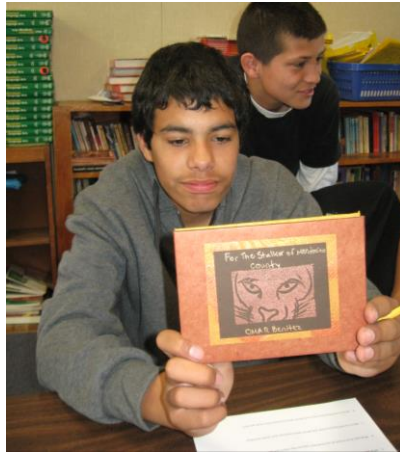
*8th Grader Putting Together Dos á Dos Animal Tribute Book*



*1st Graders "Walking The Book" To Glue Slat Book Covers With 8th Grade Art Buddy*



*8th Grader Making Corner Triangles To Glue Dos á Dos Book Covers*



*8th Grader Looking At Finished Dos á Dos Tribute Poem Book At Final Class Reflection*

### **Ode To A Sneaky Ninja**

Oh, striped, sneaky raccoon,  
you are the color of a foggy grey day  
that is found in my garbage at night,  
you are like a ninja on a mission  
that likes to make a mess,  
native of the wet woods,  
you teach us to be independent.

*Jaime González, 1st Grade*



*1st Grader With 8th Grade Art Buddy And Finished Slat Book Cover Collage*



*1st Grade Student Working On Slat Book Cover Collage With Ms. Egger*



*1st Grader With Reading Ode From Slat Book With Mom At Open House*



*Class Assistant And 4th Grade Student Looking At Display At Open House*



*1st Grade Students Reading Odes Aloud With Ms. Rodríguez At Open House*



*8th Grader Reading Tribute Poem At Open House*



*1st Grade Students Reading Odes Aloud With Ms. Schmitz At Open House*



*1st Grader With Book And Family At Open House*