



A Literacy Portrait of One School

Nathalie C. Lilavois

“The stories we write are the heart of who we are as teachers and learners. They are important stories and it’s time to tell them.”

Meyer

Essential Question

What do our displays communicate about who we are, what we believe in, and how we choose to set and meet literacy expectations with students in our care?

Questions...

- *What do our literacy displays convey about prevailing literacy practices and events that teachers and students engage in as part of their daily routines?*
- *What events and practices are constitutive of literacy in this place at this particular time?*
- *What meanings are (re)constructed by teachers, students, and visitors around the literacy displays they see?*
- *How do these understandings contrast with the views reflected in the state and federal focus on educational reform?*

Theoretical Framework

“ We can only interpret the world on the basis of constructs we already have ”

Mayher, p. 81

- Literacy as personal knowledge
- Sociolinguistic: Language is socially constructed & meaning is negotiated
- Culturally & historically situated

Photography

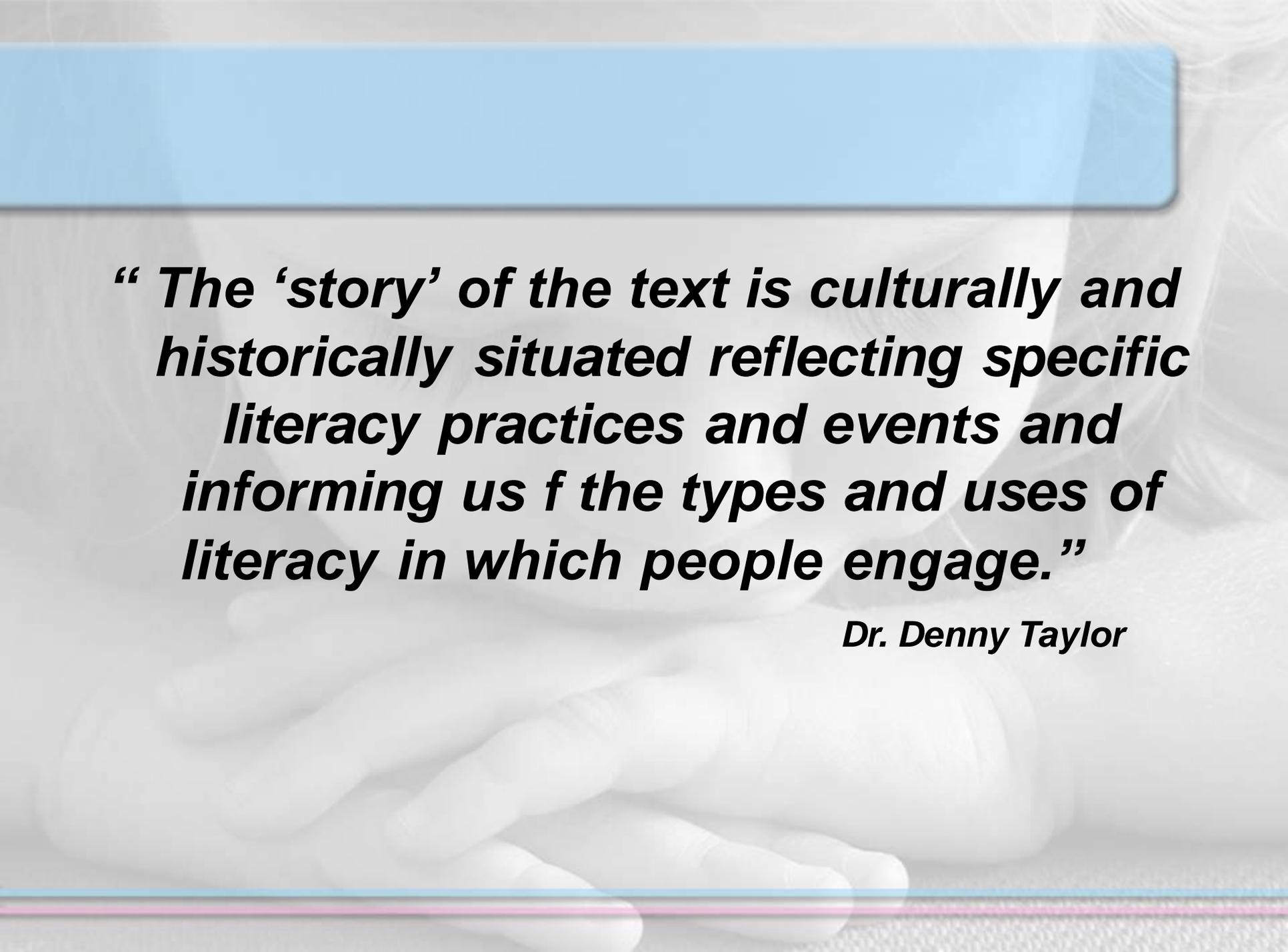
When photographs are shared with others, the original meaning undergoes transformations reflective of the personal knowledge of all those involved.

Conceptual Framework

- Living narrative
- Potentially recognizable as pointing to something beyond themselves
- Events in time
- Aesthetic transactions
- Situated literacy
- Storying

Data Collection

- Photographs of displays
- Student work
- Teacher's work
- Interviews
- Related documents
- Artifacts
- notes



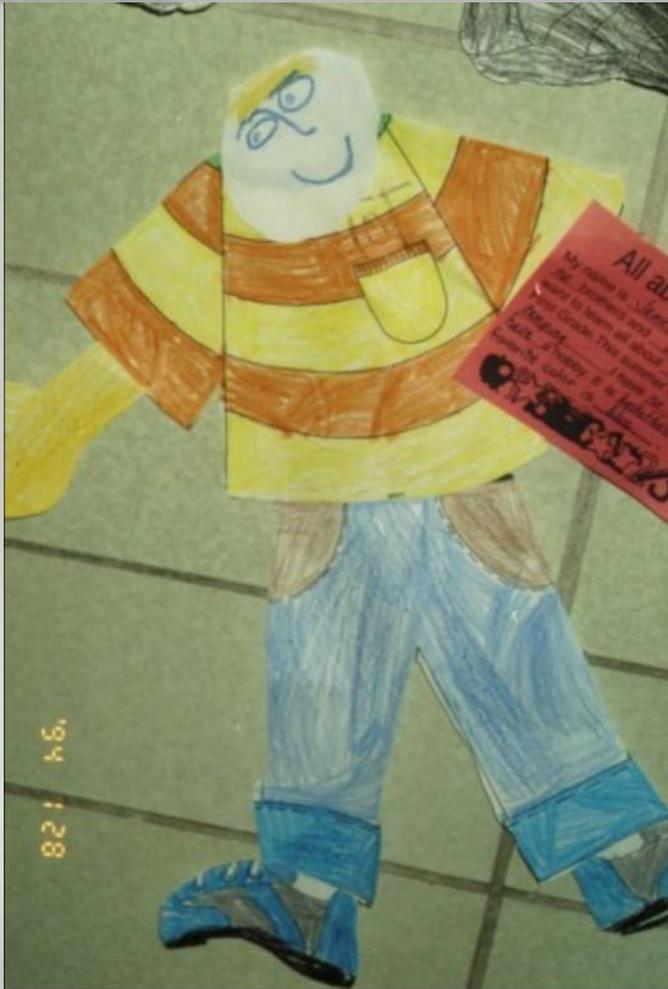
“ The ‘story’ of the text is culturally and historically situated reflecting specific literacy practices and events and informing us of the types and uses of literacy in which people engage.”

Dr. Denny Taylor

Appearance of Themes in Displays



What does this work mean?



Why is this work important?



What does this display convey about us?



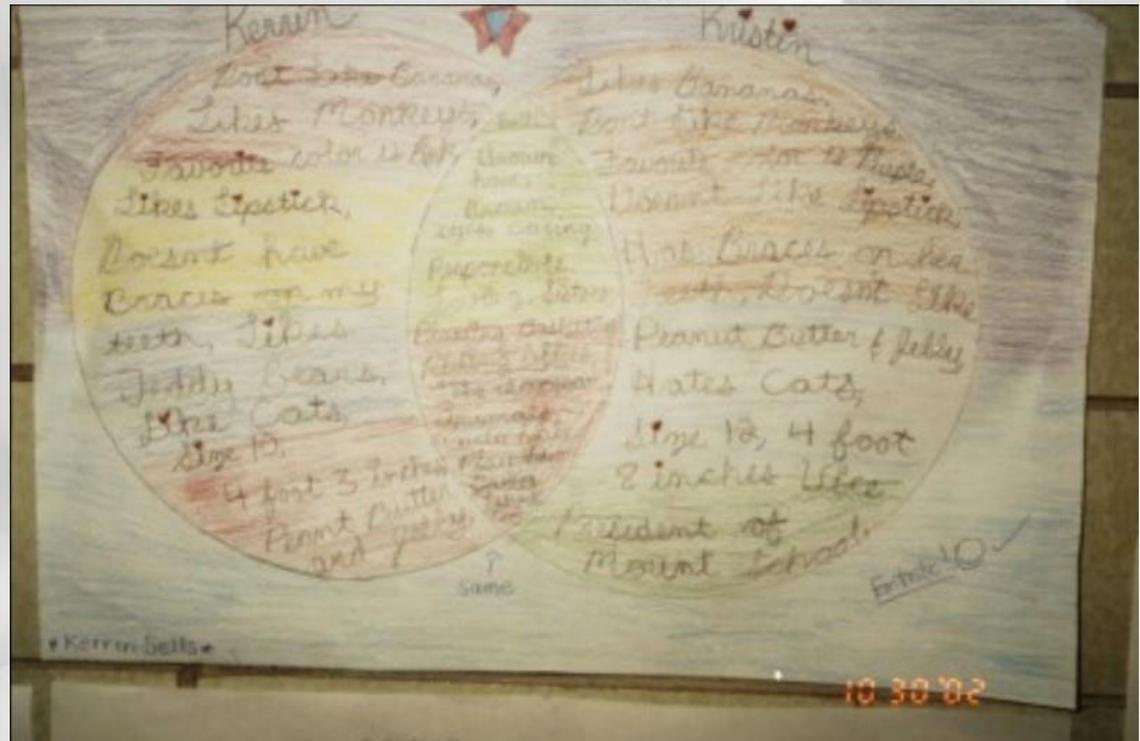
How are we connected?



Marisa is a student in my class. She lives on Millbrook Drive in Stony Brook, NY. Marisa has no bothers but has an older sister. She also has a dog. Her mom is a great cook and her dad plays with her a lot. Marisa's favorite relative is her cousin, Jaclyn, because she is fun and funny.

Marisa's favorite color is purple. Her favorite food is macaroni. Marisa is really good at riding horses. When she has free time she plays Play Station Two and watches TV. Marisa wants to be a teacher when she grows up because she wants to work with kids. Marisa wants her parents to spend more time with her. If Marisa had one wish she would wish for a pony.

By Anthony



The Leaf Project



“We had to explain stuff... what we learned....I learned that my tree is 59 yrs old; a tree’s leaves gives it water. Trees need sunlight so it can survive. Trees can live up to a million/billion yrs old.”
(Cody, Dec 08)

The Gingerbread People

- **Researcher:** “What do you think people think when they see your work hanging in the hallway?”
- **Student:** “They’re thinking ‘Wow, I wonder who made those?’ It’s kinda cool.” Peter gr 1



Representations of Content

TAXONOMY OF MOTION

Acceleration	Newton
Bob's weight is less on moon	Objects in motion
Contact friction	Pull
Deceleration	Quick by streamline
Earth	Rolling friction
Friction	Speed
Gravity	Timed distance
High speed	Universal gravity
Inertia State Newton	Velocity
Jet-air resistance	Weight
Kilometers per hour	X-treme speed
Laws of motion	Yo-yo reaction
Mass	Zebras running

Measuring Temperature

Converting Fahrenheit to Celsius: $F-32=C$

Converting Celsius to Fahrenheit: $C \times 9/5 + 32 = F$

Temperature: measurement of the average motion of the particles in an object

- Gabriel Fahrenheit a German, made the Fahrenheit scale in the early 1700's
- In 1742, Anders Celsius, a Swede, made the Celsius scale
- Salt, ice, and ammonia = 0°F
- 98°F is the average human body temperature
- Water boils at 100°C
- Hydrogen boils at -253°C
- Oxygen boils at -184°C

- Particles rarely stop moving at -273°C.
- Lava reaches 1000°C.
- Thermograms — shows ranges of temperatures.
- Infrared used for thermograms.
- Thermograms used to detect weaknesses, heat loss, locate cancers.
- Temperature scales based on how substances react at certain temperatures.

55555555

Hot

Cold

Using Key Vocabulary

- Contract smaller.
- Expansion larger.
- Bimetals
- Key Point
- Everything temperature
- A thermometer and expansion
- People make with special when they ex

Playing with Language



Invitations





LEATHER RODDIN



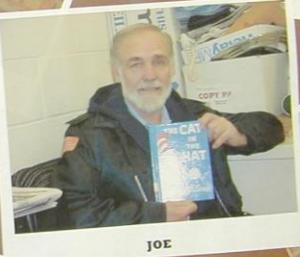
ENNY BAUCH



KELLY LYNNE SONANDER



MRS. WEBER



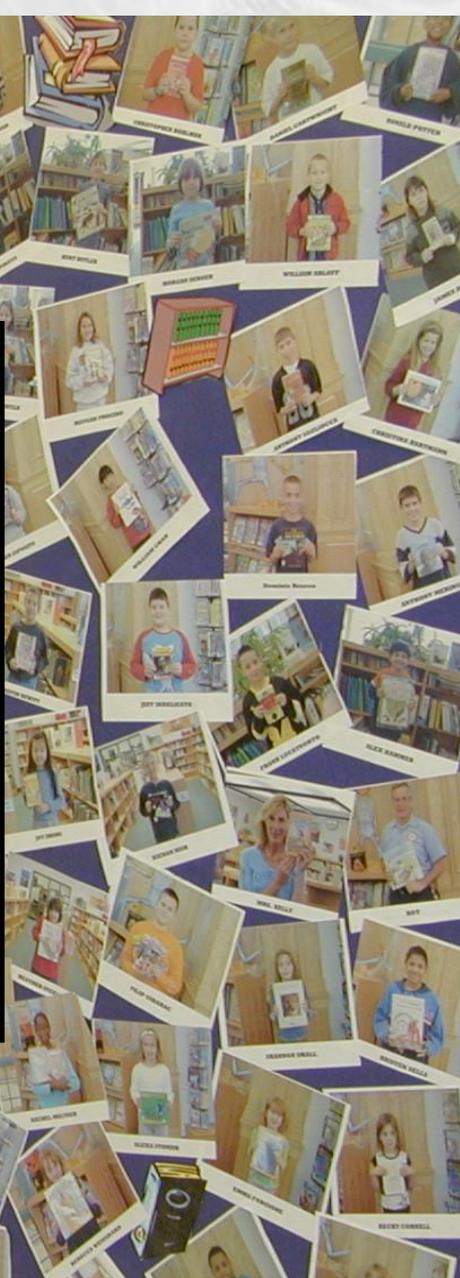
JOE

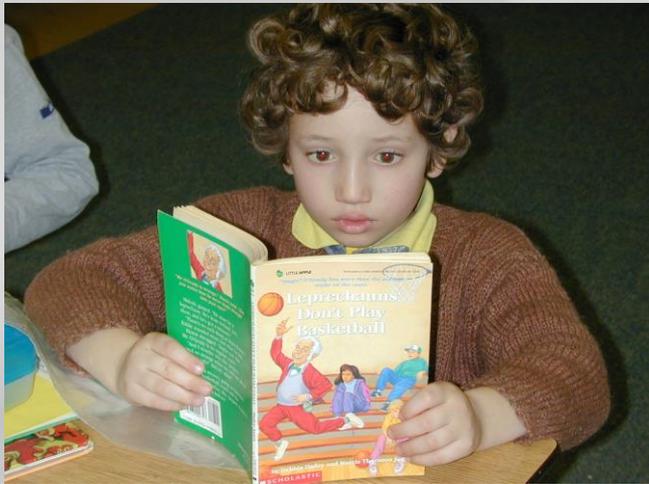


ELISE MURRELL



EMMILY SY





“ It’s time to tell the stories of our classrooms and our lives as teachers. Our stories are a viable and valid form of research because our stories teach us and teach others when we share them. Telling our stories is a form of liberation. It is one way we claim our classrooms as belonging to us and our students.... Our stories are our power. Telling them makes us articulate experts about our classrooms”.

Richard J. Meyer (1996) p. xii