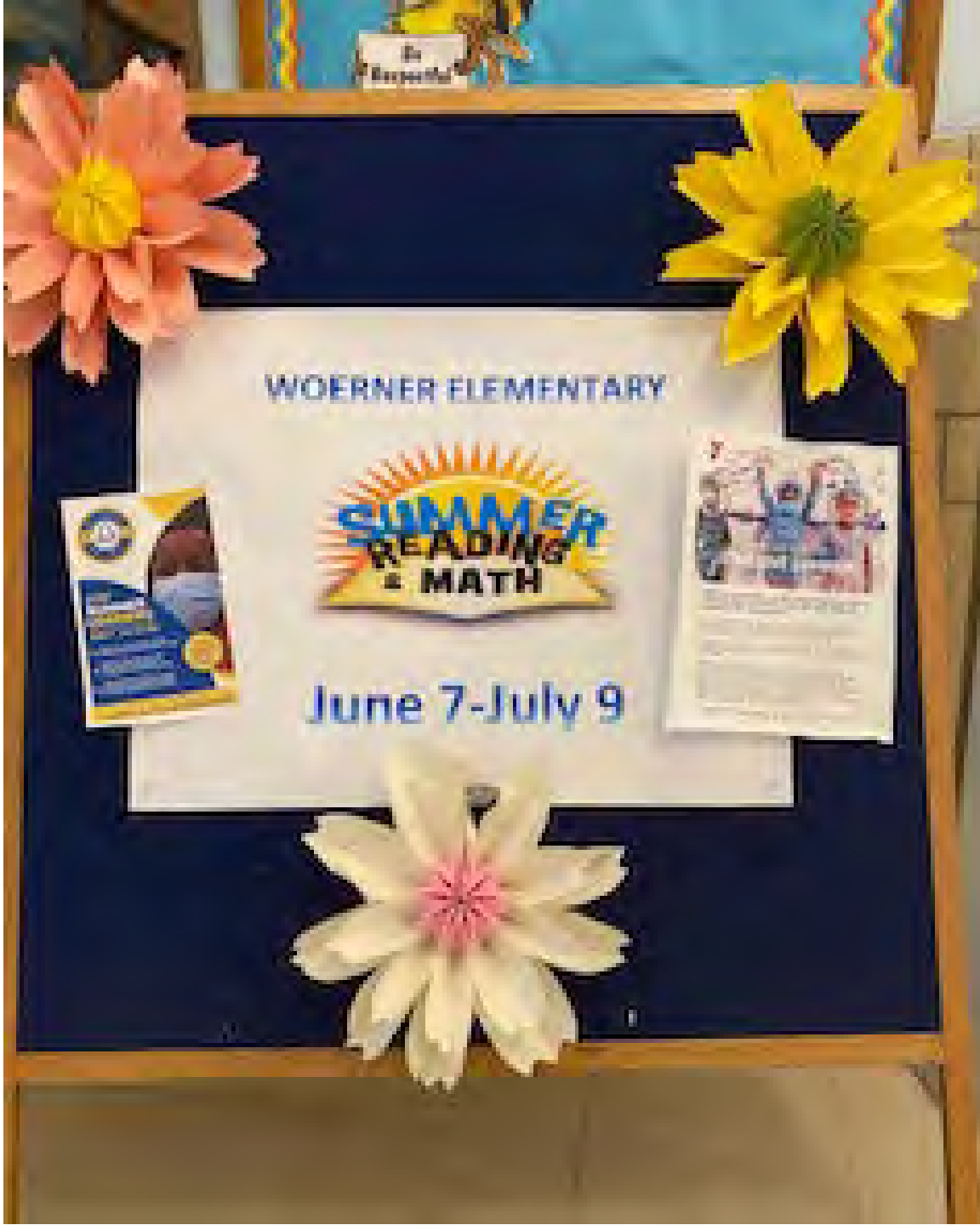




Woerner Elementary
Summer 2021
Students as Authors and
Bookmakers



A literacy collaboration between Woerner Elementary, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and Texas State University.

Introduction



June 25, 2021

Dear Students, Families, and Teachers,

We believe all students have important stories to tell, are authors, and can publish their writing. Woerner Elementary School in St. Louis Public Schools and the E. Des Lee Endowment in Tutorial Education at UMSL partnered together during the Summer of 2021 to make this a reality.

Students in 3rd-5th grade were invited to share their stories and write poetry through a series of lessons led by literacy professors Dr. Jesse Gainer and Nancy Gainer at Texas State University. The Woerner team included Ms. Leto, Ms. McLean, Ms. Williams, Ms. Banks, Ms. Shavers, and Mr. Dunn. In partnership with Ms. Shadae Bartley, and UMSL literacy tutors, the students wrote about their language, identity, culture, and community. They each crafted poems, contributed to a poetry anthology, and shared this with the Woerner community.

The students also learned about the world of “Cartonera Editoriales.” This tradition of book-making and community-based publishing focuses on using recycled materials to make books to feature children’s knowledge and stories. The goal is to put book-making in the hands of students, families, and teachers to and to cultivate readers, not profit.

In this anthology, you will see the students’ poetry, artwork and unique expressions of culture, language, and community. Take time to ask questions of each poet: What authors and mentor texts inspired your poetry? How did you stitch your book to create the binding? Why did you choose the colors and design for the cover art? What will you write next?

Our goal was to grow readers and writers. We are proud of all of the students who participated in this project and made un libro cartonera. We invite the students to continue using their new literacies to dream, write, and make public their stories.

Thank You, Shukrana, Hvala ti, Spas dikim, Dhan’yavade, Camo’nban, Asante, Gracisas, Mahadsanid

Kathy Matthews, Assistant Principal at Woerner Elementary

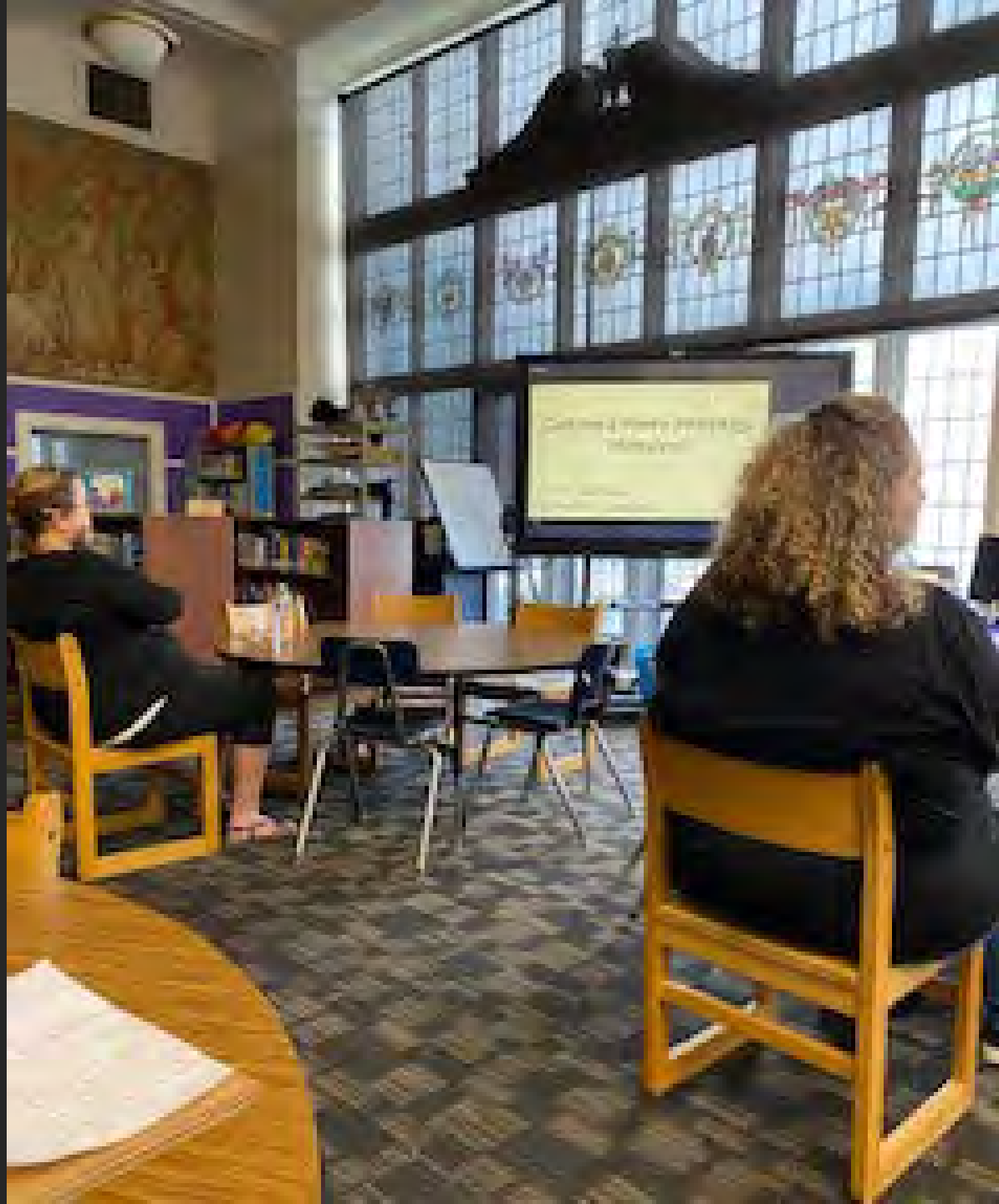
Amy McLean, ESL Teacher, Woerner Elementary

Rebecca Rogers, E. Des Lee Endowed Professor of Tutorial Education at the UMSL

Shadae Bartley, Literacy Clinic Specialist, UMSL



Teachers learn the Art and Science of Bookmaking



Collective Identity Poem

We Are Wise by Zetta Elliott

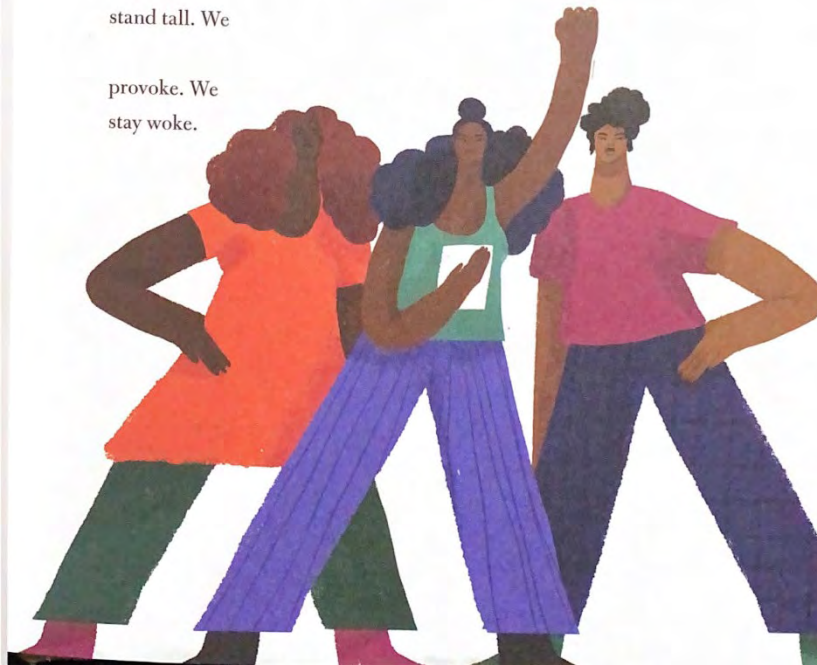
WE ARE WISE

We are wise. We
will rise. We

fight hate. We
tempt fate. We

risk all. We
stand tall. We

provoke. We
stay woke.





Collective Poem

by 3rd Grade



Woerner Wildcats

We are the Wildcats

We are strong

We are problem solvers

We are brave

We are friends

We are helpful

We are kind

We are smart

We are responsible

We show respect

We are hard workers

We are happy!

Read Arounds from Ms. Leto's class



Collective Poem

by 4th Grade



Woerner Wildcats

We are the Wildcats

We are smart

We are intelligent

We are kind and helpful

We are thinkers

We are funny

We are athletic

We are learners

We are diverse

We are the best!

Read aloud from Ms. McLean's
class

Mentor Poets

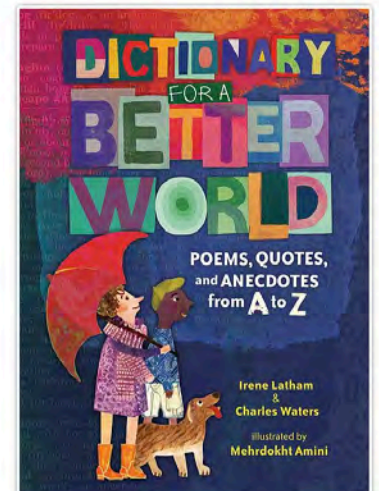
Zetta Elliott
Charles Waters



Zetta Elliott



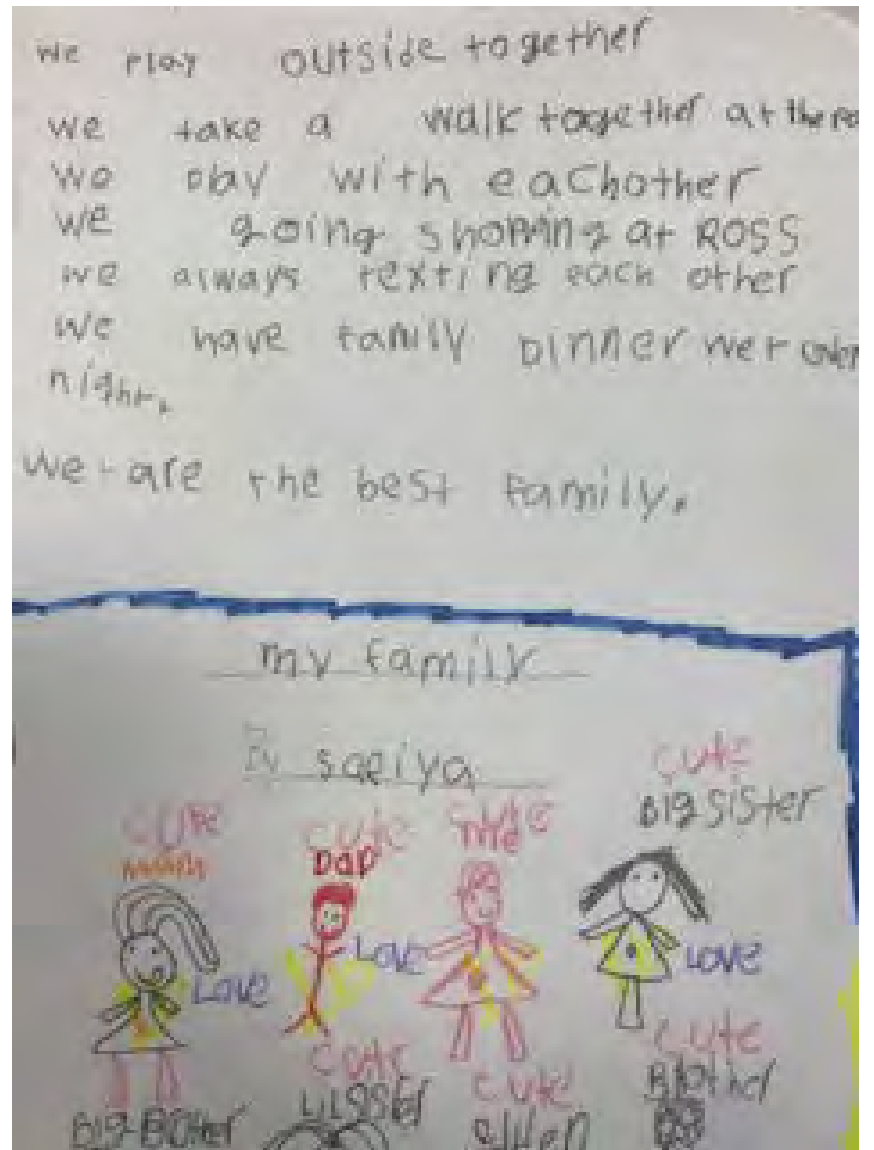
Charles Waters



List Poems

Identity Poems

Riddle Poems



Identity Poems

Hermano/ Brother

Química



I love my hermano / amo a mi hermano

he is kind,

es bueno,

tiene muchos

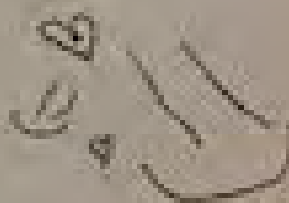
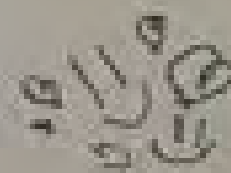
amigos

hermano

es muy simpático

etc.

I love my hermano / amo a mi hermano
el es muy divertido



Identity Poems

Myself

I am King

I am Short

I am a Sister

I am Special

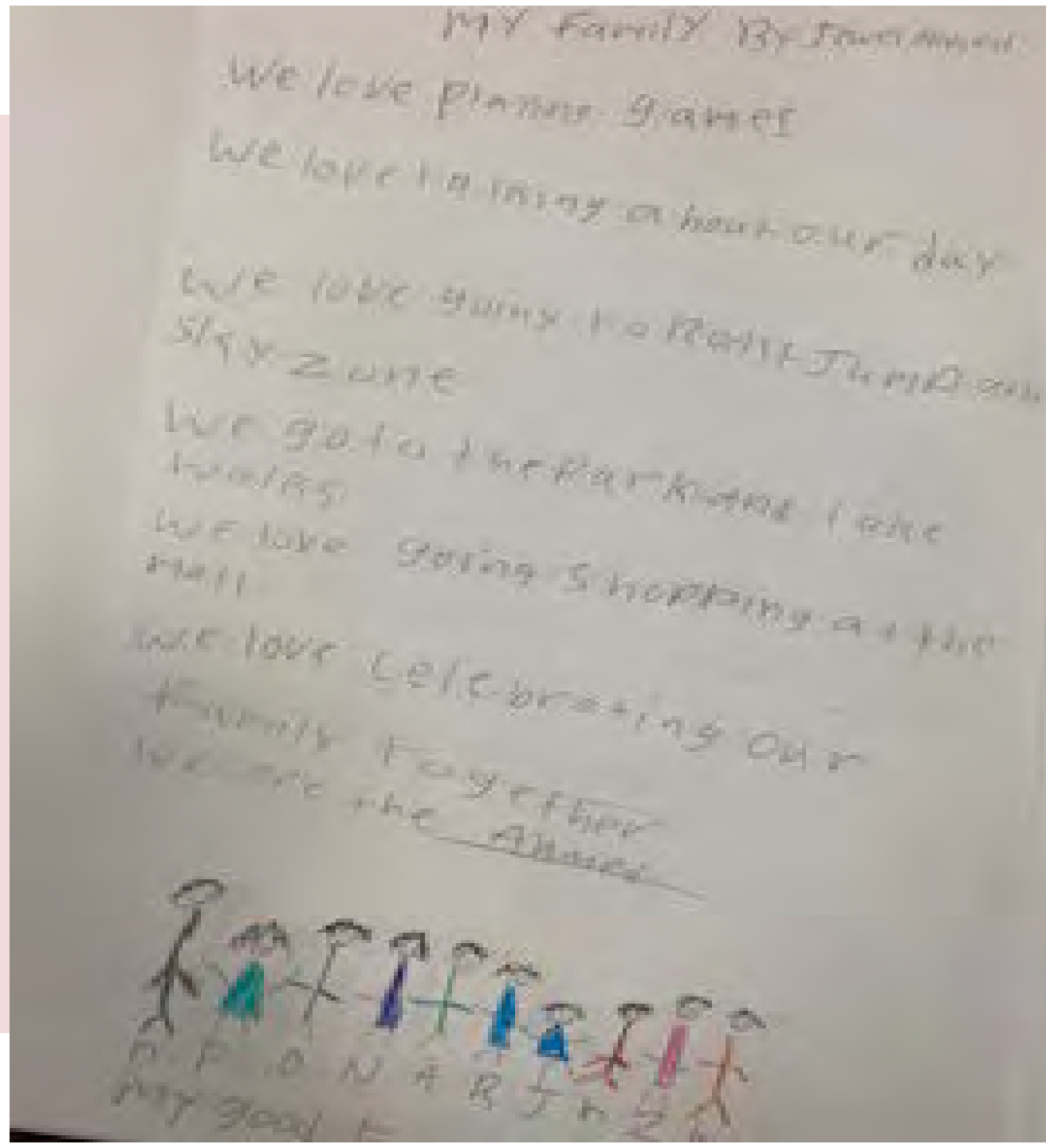
I am Brave

I am Different

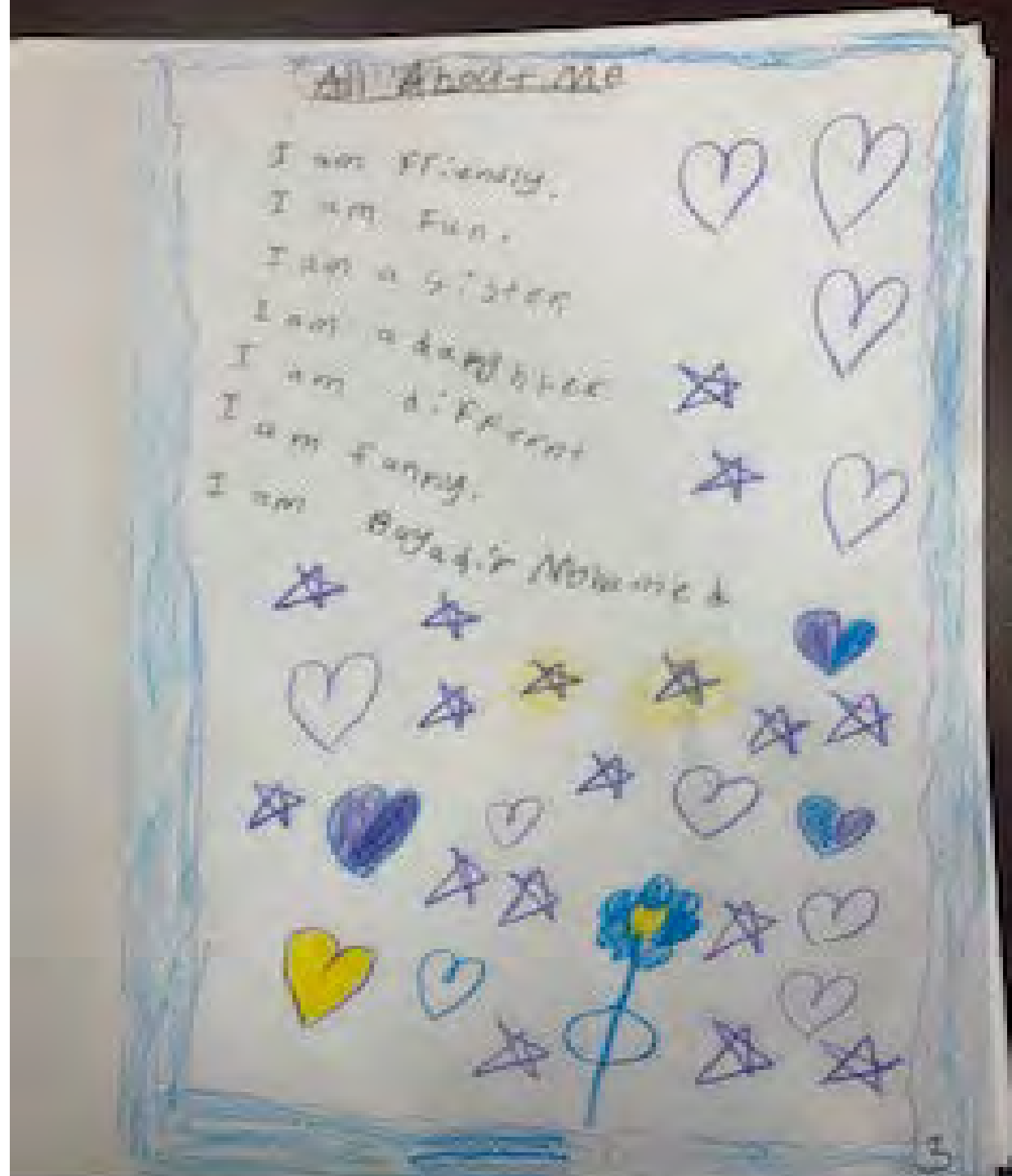
I am Cayman Reese! 😊

by Cayman

Identity Poems



Riddle Poems



You are hearing the poetry of the students and seeing their book-making. These books were crafted in the tradition of “Cartonera Editoriales.” This tradition of book-making and community-based publishing focuses on using recycled materials to make books to feature children’s knowledge, language, culture, and stories. The goal is to put book-making in the hands of students, families, and teachers to and to cultivate readers, not profit.

Read aloud from Ms. Williams'
class

GABRIEL TAGGERT

My Family

My family is nice.
My family is
caring.
My family is funny.
My family is
loving.
My family is
helpful.

I have a seat.
I have pedals.
I have handlebars.
I have gears.
You ride me
outside.
I am great with
tricks.
I am a bike.

Seattle, Illinois

My uncle.
My aunt.
My cousin.
My cousin's
trampoline.
My uncle's cats.
My cousin's dog.

MRS. WILLIAMS

My Students

Fourth graders

Warriors

Flexible

Virtual

In-person

History-makers

Cappuccino

Coffee brewing cappuccino.

Make it frothy-on the go.

Sweet and creamy, mustache maker,
love my favorite morning waker.

Bubbles to blow my stress away.

Heat that relaxes to end my day.

I breathe in deep and close my eyes.

Then open them up to the bright

blue sky. My Hot Tub

KADEN BOLGER

Me and My Friends

We are smart.
We are athletic.
We are funny.
We are strong.
We are warriors.
We are the best.

Florida

The beach is nice.
I love the sky rise.
A fish touched me, I
screamed.
I got a lot of sea
shells.
And a lot of candy
I love the palm trees.

I help make air
clean.

I have different
color leaves.

Animals love to
me.

I am crunchy.

I am brown with
lumps.

I am a tree.

Read aloud from Ms. Banks' class



Collective Poem by 5th Grade



Woerner Wildcats

We are the Wildcats
We are problem solvers
We are brave
We are courageous
We are smart
We are silly
We help others
We are fantastic!

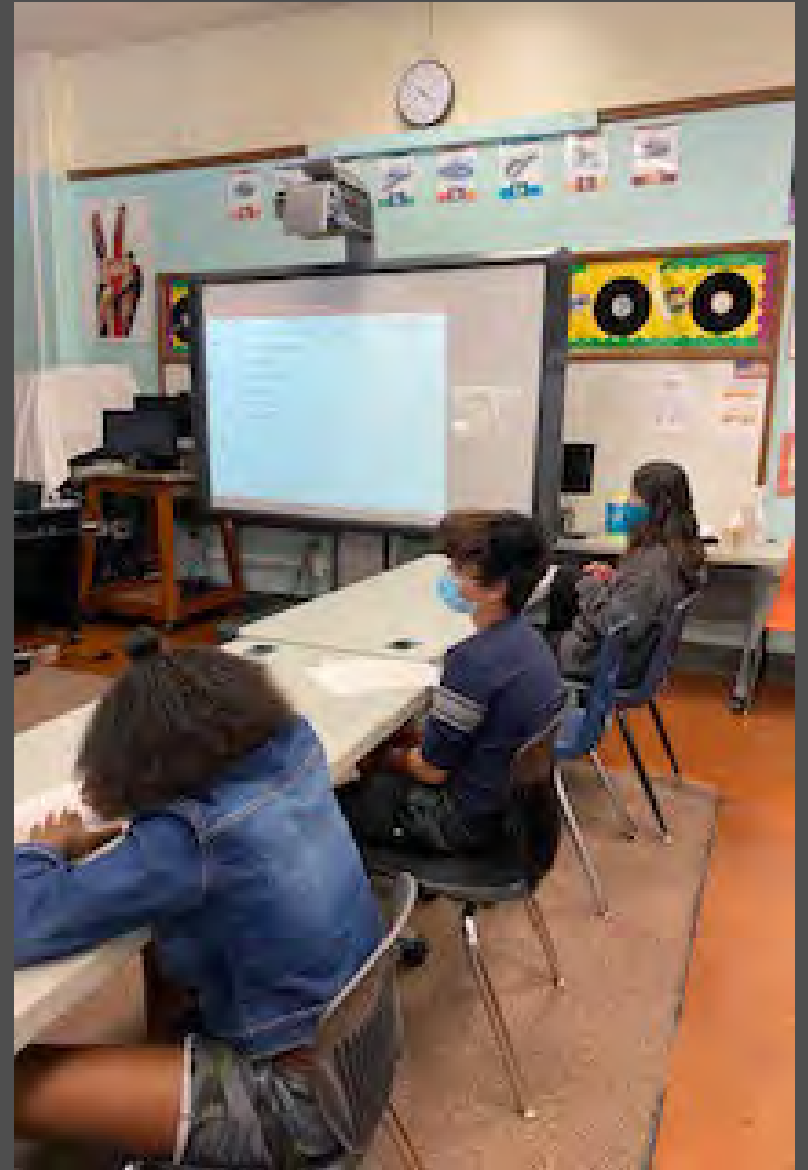
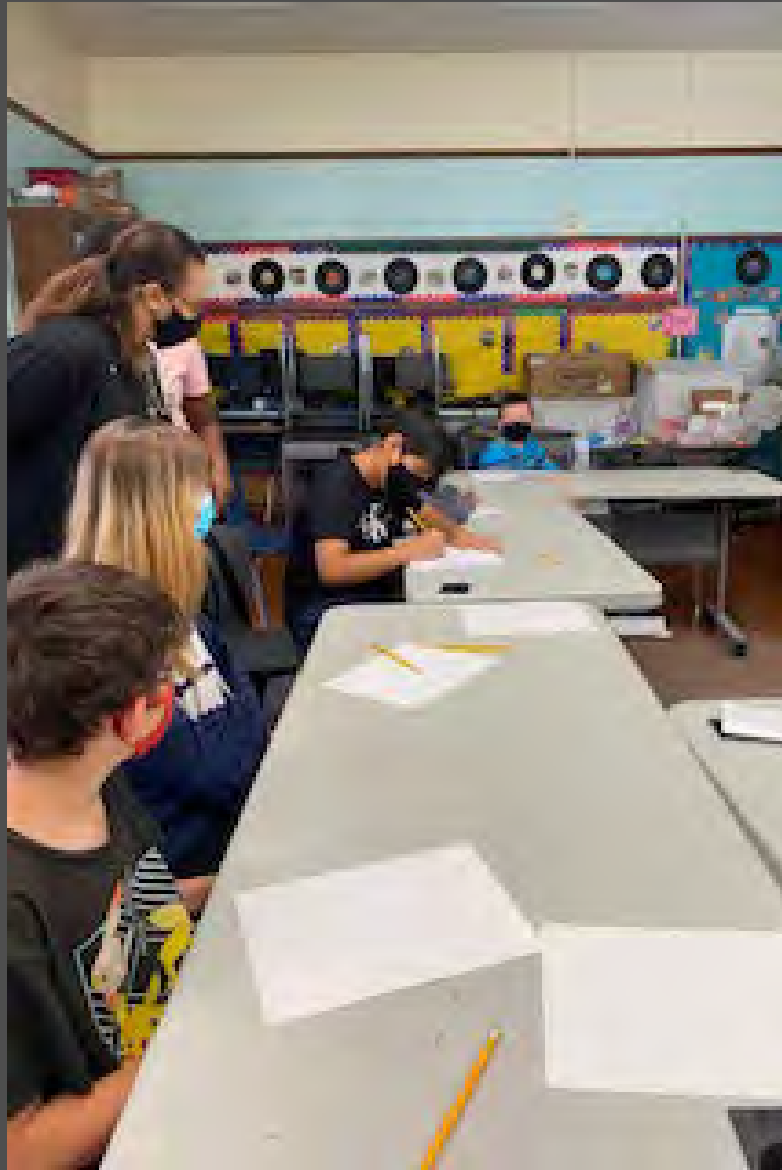


Poetry Mini-Lessons with Students



Students as Poets of their Lives





Paint and Materials needed for Bookmaking



Rebecca Roge...

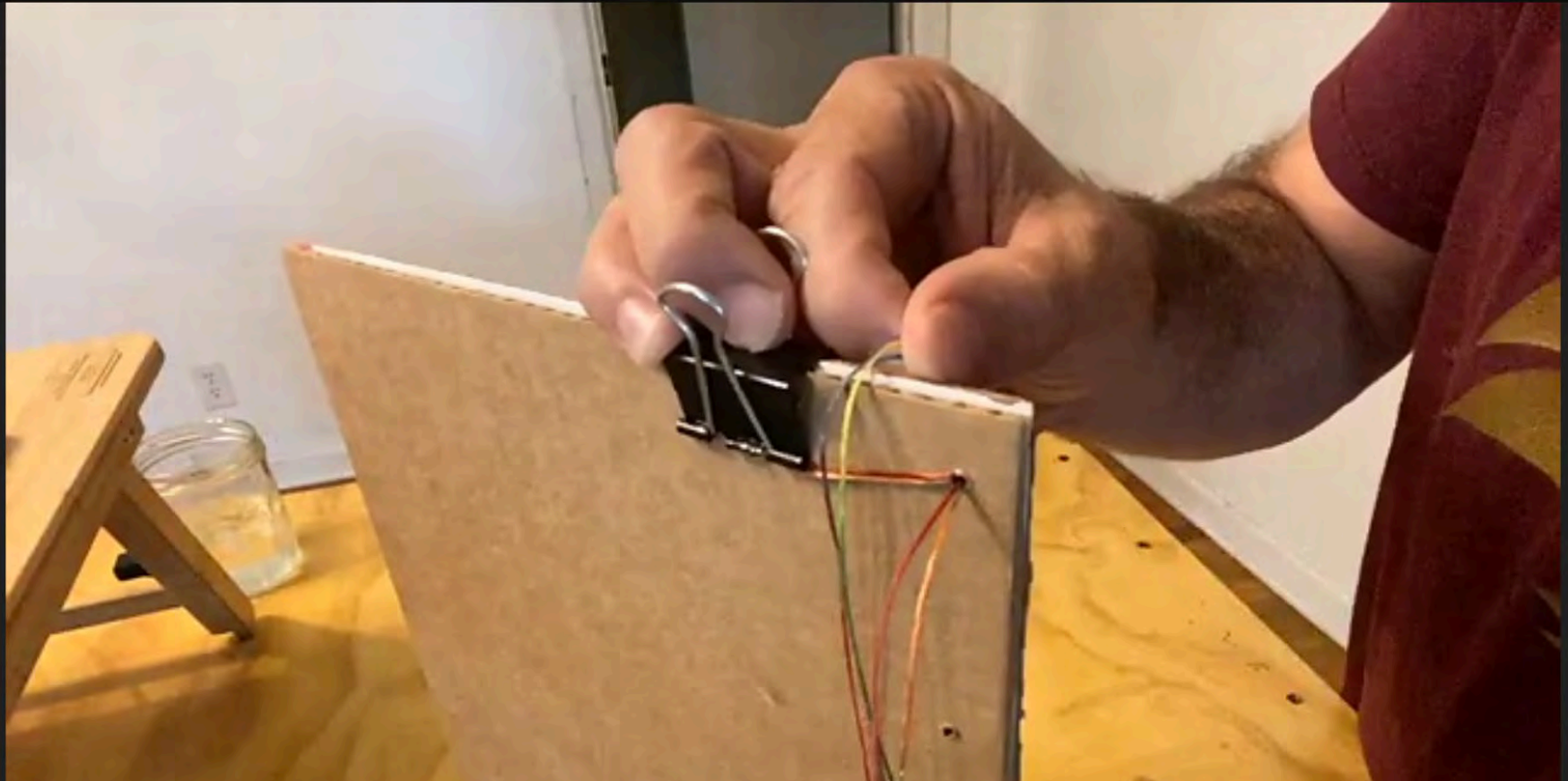
Jesse Gainer

Leann Williams

Ms. Banks

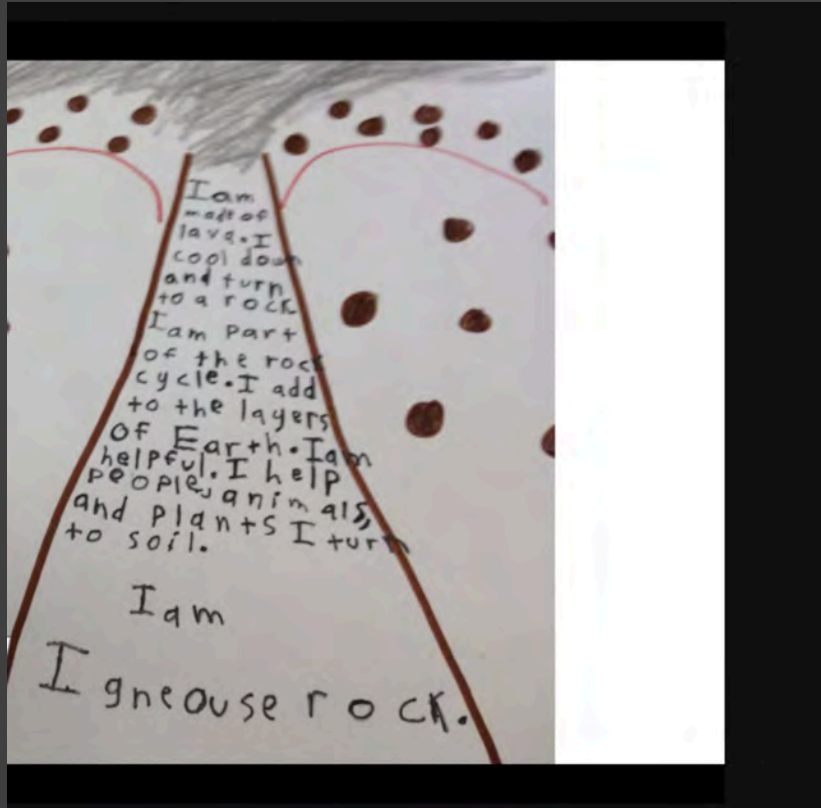
McLean

Nancy



Book-Making Workshop with Students
(Japanese side-stitch)

Un Libro Cartonera *cardboard book*



Special Thanks

- Specials Thanks to Dr. Rogers and the E. Des Lee Endowment in Tutorial Education for believing in our vision.
- Dr. Jesse Gainer and Nancy Gainer for partnering with us and sharing outstanding poetry and the new skill of book-making with our students.
- Students at Woerner for sharing their ideas in poetry!
- Staff and Woerner Teachers for believing in our students.
- Margaret Meyer for cutting out all those cardboard book covers.
- UMSL tutors for working with our students.
- Shadae Bartley for her literacy leadership and working with our students and tutors.
- Amy McLean for seeking out this partnership.