

## History Stories

### A Cross-Age, Project Based Learning History & Arts Project Anderson Valley Junior & Senior High School 2018-2019

The *History Stories—A Cross-Age, Project Based Learning History & Arts Project* brought artist and arts educator Cathleen Micheaels together with Anderson Valley Junior & Senior High School (AVJ&SHS) social studies and history teacher Nat Corey-Moran to collaborate on planning and delivering a project based learning, integrated history and arts project with the two 7th grade World History classes during the 2018-2019 school year. The project built on the highly successful *History Stories* project carried out during the 2017-2018 school year and focused on the wide range of historical eras and periods students investigate and learn about in their 7th Grade World History classes including the classical Maya, Aztec and Inca civilizations, the rise and fall of Rome and Byzantium, the rise and spread of Islam, classical West African civilizations, ancient China and Japan and Medieval, Renaissance and Enlightenment Europe.



The *History Stories* project engaged students in researching, writing and creating children's books about historical figures and events to then share with younger students at Anderson Valley Elementary School (AVES) through a Reading Buddy exchange. Students worked in teams to research a historical figure or event they were investigating and learning about in 7th grade World History classes and then wrote, designed, created and illustrated age-appropriate children's books. Topics included how ancient twin Mayan brothers discover cocoa and then how their mother accidentally mixes the chocolate into her famous atole recipe; a young boy born in a West African family of *griots* or *jalis* (musician storytellers) who grows up to be a famous drummer; a poor girl working in a castle in Medieval Spain who steals the king's treasured round of manchego cheese to help her hungry family; a young orphaned boy in feudal Japan who is adopted by a monk and becomes a samurai; a French pastry chef who needs to impress King Louis XVI in Paris so he creates the famous macaron while he is teaching the king's son young Louis Joseph to bake; an Incan princess who refuses to marry as her father the king of Cuzco wishes so she runs away into the high Andean mountains and becomes an ice maiden. The project was introduced and started in October-December 2018 with eight sessions including initial Reading Buddy visits to the 1st and 2nd grade classes then continued January-June 2019 with monthly sessions and the final Reading Buddy visits.





The project is aligned with and supports (1) the AVJ&SHS goal of establishing hands-on project based learning collaborations schoolwide (2) the Common Core focus on developing research, critical thinking and creative problem solving skills and (3) the CA History-Social Science Content Standards. The project also supports the CA English Language Arts Content Standards and CA Visual and Performing Arts Standards through the use of pre-writing brainstorming and story writing scaffolding templates to expand language development (description, simile, metaphor, punctuation protocols, etc.) and through the use of materials and tools that allow students to explore the basic art elements (line, color, shape, texture, etc.) while making Japanese (side bound) two-hole book structures bound with Chicago bookbinding screws and illustrated with original watercolor pencils and crayons finished with art pen detailing. Finally, the project helps develop student leadership through the cross-age Reading Buddy exchange.

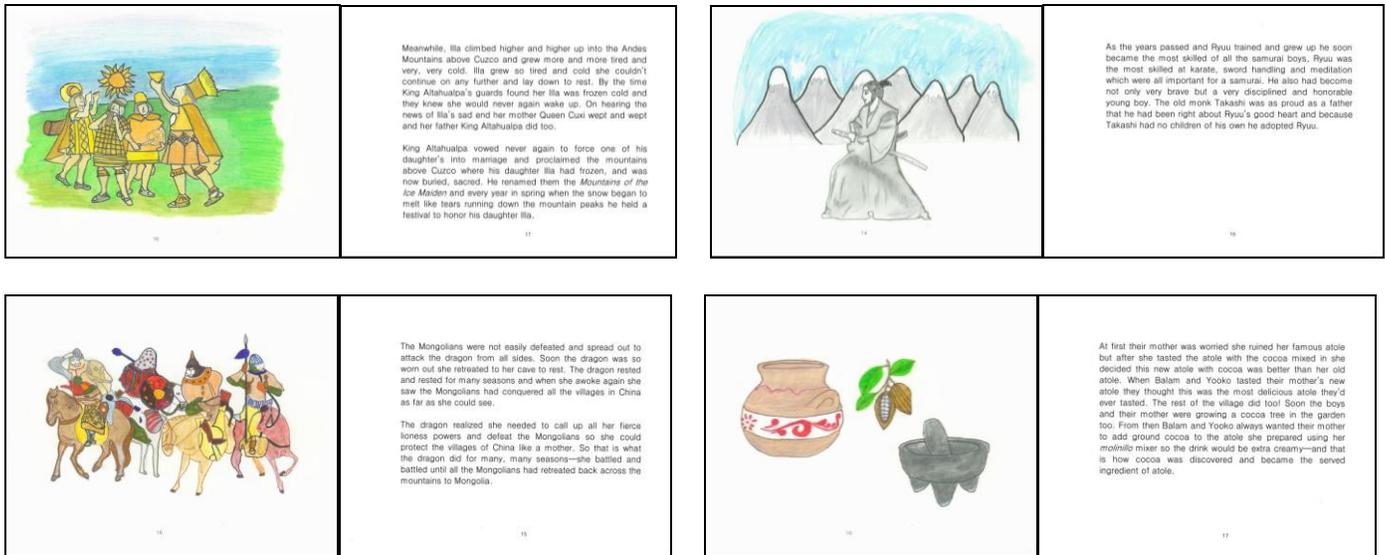


The nearly year-long project included 25 sessions focused on (1) introducing award winning children's books and looking at what makes a successful book for younger children (2) looking at and exploring book design and illustration options (3) using pre-writing researching, brainstorming and story writing scaffolding templates as well as peer and teacher feedback for supporting the writing and editing process (4) step-by-step introduction to designing and creating age-appropriate one-of-a-kind handmade children's books ready for print publication (5) two visits to AVES 1st and 2nd grade classes to meet the target reader audiences, complete *Reading Buddy Visit Observation* surveys about what kinds of storybooks, writing and illustrations most engage younger students and then to share the finished storybooks with younger students through a Reading Buddy exchange and (6) putting together an after school student-led presentation and exhibit for the AVJ&SHS *Exhibition of Learning* on Tuesday, May 28th and hosting a book publication celebration on Wednesday, May 29th which offered students the chance to read each other's storybooks, reflect on the project and enjoy grape juices and farmstead cheese donated by Navarro Vineyards and Pennyroyal Farm.





The titles and student authors of the fourteen completed storybooks are as follows: *A Knight's Tale—A Love Story* by Fernando Bucio, Mariana Zavala-Camacho & Saul Mejia; *Discovered—The Story Of Atole's Secret Ingredient* by Chantel Alarcon, David Avalos & Anthony F. Fashauer; *Icy Dreams—The Story Of A Young Incan Maiden* by Lucy M. Espinoza, Briana Balandrán Padilla & Leilani Bucio Solano; *Khalifa—The Story Of The Boy Who Became A Legendary Drummer* by Dominic Sanchez & Jack Spacek; *Michelangelo's Apprentice—The Long, Long Story Of How The Ninja Turtles Got Their Names* by Anahi Anguiano, Evelyn Franco & Tricia Anguiano-Rubio; *Only A Joke—The Story Of A Jester Who Conquered Rome* by Roberto Bucio, Samuel Guerrero & Jareth Guzman; *Takashi & Ryuu—The Story Of A Strong Samurai* by Noah Allen, Leslie Bucio-Solano & Mariana Flores-Almanza; *The Choice—The Story Of A Young Boy In Japan* by Gregorio F. Parra & Ricardo Malfavon; *The Darkest Times—The Story Of The Black Plague* by Daniel Baeuerlen, Randal Ferreyra & Luis Angel Mendoza; *The Fall Of The Great Wall—The Story Of How The Great Wall Of China Was Conquered* by Alan Omar Aguilera & Gus J. Spacek; *The Fearless Dragon—The Secret Story Of The Great Wall Of China* by Leidy Mia Lopez, Trenton David John Rossi & Harvest Jay Ryan; *The Fortress Of Cheese—An Ancient Madrid Romance* by Noel Camarillo, Kellie Crisman & Eric Pérez; *The Great Adventures Of Khalid & Omar—Comedians By Day, Thieves By Night* by Ivan Camarillo, Thomas Torres Medina & Khyber Peters; and *The Slippery Macaron—The Adventures Of Bertram And Young Louis Joseph* by Marissa Alvarez, Alana Richert & Beau Sanchez.



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