StoryWalks™

PRESENTED BY:
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About Suzanne:

- Children’s Services Coordinator for 13 years
- Currently pursuing MLS
- Served birth - high school; currently focused on elementary children & younger
- Trained secondary teacher
- Former Ready for Kindergarten facilitator
Introductions

Please Share:

- Your Name
- Library
- Familiarity with StoryWalks™
Objectives

- Attendees will define StoryWalk™
- Attendees will note benefits of StoryWalk™
- Attendees will learn how to host and construct a StoryWalk™
- Attendees will consider differing “types” of StoryWalks™ and StoryWalk™ enhancements
- Attendees will brainstorm different partners for StoryWalk™
StoryWalk™, Defined

StoryWalk™ is a fun, educational activity that places a children’s story along a popular walking route in your community.

–Take a Hike!: Building Literacy Skills through StoryWalk™
The history

“I started the project as a way to promote physical activity, early literacy, and family time together in nature. I wanted to create something that would involve parents and other grownups along with children that would be fun and draw people outside to enjoy parks and trails and fresh air. I have been pleasantly surprised to see how people of all ages enjoy a StoryWalk.”

—Anne Ferguson, Vermont Department of Health
Combining 3 Critical Elements

- **Early Literacy & Learning**
  - Early Literacy Practices
  - Early Literacy Skills

- **Family Engagement Outdoors**
  - Build strong connections
  - Value wild places

- **Physical Activity**
  - Supports psychological well-being
  - Protection against screen-time
  - Protection against disease & depression
History of Bonner County StoryWalk™

- Partner invite
- Talk problems... solutions... goals
- A little research...
- Set a date
- Choose a story
- Where we are today...
The Problems in Bonner County

- Health issues
- Family disconnection
- School readiness
How StoryWalk™ Could Help - Hoped-For Outcomes

- Community members enjoy outdoor spaces and recognize the importance of parks.
- Doctors prescribe parks and StoryWalks™ for depression.
- Children have early literacy experiences.
- Families enjoy wonderful stories together.
- Families are exposed to environmental and multicultural themes.
Additional Hoped-For Outcomes

- Get StoryWalks to schools and classes to StoryWalks.
- Forge stronger relationships with cities, businesses, and community agencies.
- Educate partners on how children learn to read.
The Research... What We Needed to Know

- Copyright Law - hardcover vs paperback
- How to put the StoryWalk up
- Great story choices
- How much does a StoryWalk™ cost?
- How to market StoryWalk™
That First Story

- *Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening* (Susan Jeffers)
- Literacy activities for each page
- Christmas time launch
- Dover City Park – temporary
- Second graders – readers, indoor crafts, & hot cocoa
Our Launch--December 2015
Since Then...

- Over 60 Stories in multiple locations & at various events though Bonner County
- Places, Construction, Duration
- Additional **Literacy Component:** sometimes
- **Partners:** varies, depending on venue, theme, and/or event
- Temporary... and **Permanent**
- **Response:** overwhelmingly **positive**
The Nitty Gritty... Readying a Story

- Choose story
- 2–3 copies of the book
- Hardcover vs paperback
- Lamination
- Add literacy elements
- Numbering
- Posting
Stories We’ve Used

- Apple Pie Tree (Hall)
- Busy Tree (Ward)
- Close Your Eyes (Banks)
- Curious George Plants a Tree (Perez)
- Dragons Love Tacos (Rubin)
- From Head to Toe (Carle)
- Great Blue House (Banks)
- Hat for Minerva Louise (Stoeke)
- House in the Woods (Moore)
- I Love My Pirate Papa (Leuck)
- If You Plant a Seed (Nelson)
- Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads (Shea)
- King Bidgood’s in the Bathtub (Wood)
- Kitchen Dance (Manning)
- Kitten Tale (Rohmann)
- Knuffle Bunny (Willems)
- Little Elephants (Base)
- Max Found Two Sticks (Pinkney)
- Merry Moosey X-Mas (Plourde)
- Mitten (Brett)
- Monster’s Monster (McDonnell)
- My Father Knows the Names of Things (Yolen)
- Night Santa Got Lost (Keane)
- Night Tree (Bunting)
- Oh, No! (Rohmann)
- On Meadowview Street (Cole)
- Perfect Nest (Friend)
- Poof (O’Brien)
- Ragweed’s Farm Dog Handbook (Kennedy)
- School’s First Day of School (Rex)
- Scoot (Falwell)
- Searcher and Old Tree (McPhail)
- Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening (Jeffers)
- Water Is Water (Paul)
- Wemberly Worries (Henkes)
- When the Sky Is Like Lace (Horwitz)
- Widget (McFarland)
- Wolfie the Bunny (Dyckman)
- Won Ton and Chopstick (Wardlaw)
- Wolf’s Chicken Stew (Kasza)
**Places**

- **Places:** in parks, along trails, school fences, school hallways
- **Events:** Ponderay Days, Science Night, Earth Day, Holidays
Construction...

- **Duration**: one day/night (special events), one week, one month
- **Location**
- **Temporary** – Consider: Zip ties, string, wooden stakes, metal yard signs, duct tape
- **Permanent wooden boxes**
Our Partnerships

- **Kaniksu Land Trust – Major Partner**
- Cities of Dover, Ponderay, Sandpoint
- Schools
- Friends of the Pend Oreille Bay Trail
- Veterans Association
- Panhandle Animal Shelter
- Evans’ Brothers Coffee

Who could you partner with?
StoryWalk™ Challenges

- Evaluation – Are we achieving our outcomes?
- Is it effective or merely feel-good?
- Funding.
- Negotiating StoryWalk™ sites.
Last Thoughts

● Find partners!
  ○ Be the expert on literacy & celebrate your partners’ expertise.
  ○ Hand over decisions and work… bring more people to the table.
● Employ volunteers.
● Rotation schedule is important.
● Great PR opportunities… Earth Day StoryWalks.
● Mayors, Schools, & Families LOVE StoryWalks!
  ○ Help others build their investment in literacy… and the library!
● Evaluation?
And Finally...

Questions?... Wonderings?... Thoughts?... Epiphanies?

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