



Graham Expeditionary Middle School

EL Design Principles

Expeditionary Learning is built on ten design principles that reflect the educational values and beliefs of Outward Bound. These principles also reflect the design's connection to related thinking about teaching, learning, and the culture of schools

1. The Primacy of Self-Discovery

Learning happens best with emotion, challenge and the requisite support. People discover their abilities, values, passions, and responsibilities in situations that offer adventure and the unexpected. In Expeditionary Learning schools, students undertake tasks that require perseverance, fitness, craftsmanship, imagination, self-discipline, and significant achievement. A teacher's primary task is to help students overcome their fears and discover they can do more than they think they can.

2. The Having of Wonderful Ideas

Teaching in Expeditionary Learning schools fosters curiosity about the world by creating learning situations that provide something important to think about, time to experiment, and time to make sense of what is observed.

3. The Responsibility for Learning

Learning is both a personal process of discovery and a social activity. Everyone learns both individually and as part of a group. Every aspect of an Expeditionary Learning school encourages both children and adults to become increasingly responsible for directing their own personal and collective learning.

4. Empathy and Caring

Learning is fostered best in communities where students' and teachers' ideas are respected and where there is mutual trust. Learning groups are small in Expeditionary Learning schools, with a caring adult looking after the progress and acting as an advocate for each child. Older students mentor younger ones, and students feel physically and emotionally safe.

5. Success and Failure

All students need to be successful if they are to build the confidence and capacity to take risks and meet increasingly difficult challenges. But it is also important for students to learn from their failures, to persevere when things are hard, and to learn to turn disabilities into opportunities.

6. Collaboration and Competition

Individual development and group development are integrated so that the value of friendship, trust, and group action is clear. Students are encouraged to compete not against each other but with their own personal best and with rigorous standards of excellence.

7. Diversity and Inclusion

Both diversity and inclusion increase the richness of ideas, creative power, problem-solving ability, and respect for others. In Expeditionary Learning schools, students investigate and value their different histories and talents as well as those of other communities and cultures. Schools and learning groups are heterogeneous.

8. The Natural World

A direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and teaches the important ideas of recurring cycles and cause and effect. Students learn to become stewards of the earth and of future generations.

9. Solitude and Reflection

Students and teachers need time alone to explore their own thoughts, make their own connections, and create their own ideas. They also need time to exchange their reflections with others.

10. Service and Compassion

We are crew, not passengers. Students and teachers are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others, and one of an Expeditionary Learning school's primary functions is to prepare students with the attitudes and skills to learn from and be of service to others.



EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING

Books for Teaching the Design Principles and Character

Books by Design Principle

Author	Title
All Design Principles	
Fleischman	Weslandia
Diversity and Inclusion	
Bunting, Eve	Terrible Things
Friend	My Head is Full of Colors
Fox	Feather and Fool
Kroll, Lousie	Hat off to Hair
MacLachlan, Patricia	Through Grandpa's Eyes
Watson	Talking to Angels
Sarah Kilborne	Peach and Blue
Leo Lionni	Little Blue and Little Yellow
Mem Fox	Whoever You Are
Debbie Allan	Dancing in the Wings
David Raschka	Yo! Yes?
Eleanor Estes	The Hundred Dresses
The Primacy of Self-Discovery	
Kroll, Virginia	Can you Dance, Dahlia?
Medearis, Angela Shelf	Annie's Gift
Jeff Brumbeau	Quiltmaker's Gift
Mary Hoffman	Amazing Grace
Eileen Spinelli	Someday
The Natural World	
	Henry Hikes to Fitchburg
Jim Lamarche	The Raft
Byrd Baylor	The Other Way to Listen
Bill Peet	The Wump World
Julie Brinckloe	Fireflies
Susie Rinehart	Eliza and the Dragonfly
Philip and Hannah Hoose	Hey, Little Ant
Having of Wonderful Ideas	
McLerran, Alice:	Roxaboxen

Dr. Seuss	Oh, The Thinks You Can Think
Sarah Stewart	The Gardener
Antoinette Portis	Not a Box
Collaboration and Competition	
Lobe, Tamara Awad	Let's make a Garden
Hand,	Old Mahoney and the Bear Family
Henwood	The Troubled Village
Williams, Arlene	Dragon Soup
	Stone Soup
Leo Lionni	Swimmy
Success and Failure	
	The Little Engine that Could
Molly Bang	When Sophie Gets Angry
Service and Compassion	
De Paola	The Legend of Blue Bonnet
Shel Silverstein	The Giving Tree
Patricia Polacco	Thank You, Mr. Faulker
Mem Fox	Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge
Empathy and Caring	
DePaola, Tomi	Now One Foot, Now the Other
Sarah Kilborne	Peach and Blue
Vera Williams	A Chair For My Mother
Responsibility for Learning	
	Miss Nelson is Missing
Solitude and Reflection	
Kevin Henkes	All Alone
Douglas Wood	A Quiet Place
Service and Compassion	
Sarah Kilborne	Peach and Blue
De Paolo	The Legend of Blue Bonnet

Books by Character Value

Author	Title
Compassion	
Henkes, Kevin	Chrysanthemum
Kilborne	Peach and Blue
Ziefert	39 Ways to be a friend
Polacco	Thank you, Mr. Faulker
	Mean Jean, the Recess Queen
Collicot	Toestomper and the Catepillars

Shannon	A Bad Case of the Stripes
Williams	A Chair for my Mother
De Paola	The Legend of Blue Bonnet
Integrity	
Polacco	Thank you, Mr. Faulker
Shannon	A Bad Case of the Stripes
DePaola, Tomi	Oliver Button is a Sissy
Munsch	The Paper Bag Princess
Demi	Empty Pot
Pfister	Rainbow Fish to the Rescue
Polacco, Patricia	Picnic at Mudsock Meadow
Bunting, Eve	A Day's Work
Ness, Evaline	Sang, Bangs, and Moonshine
Stewardship	
Fleischman	Weslandia
De Paola	The Legend of Blue Bonnet
	Henry Hikes to Fitchburg
Respect	
Shannon	A Bad Case of the Stripes
Fleischman	Weslandia
Bunting, Eve	Terrible Things
DePaola, Tomi	Now One Foot, Now the Other
Friend	My Head is Full of Colors
Fox	Feather and Fool
Kroll, Lousie	Hat off to Hair
MacLachlan, Patricia	Through Grandpa's Eyes
Watson	Talking to Angels
John Steptoe	Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters
Lionni, Leo	Inch by Inch
Imagination	
Fleischman	Westlandia
McLarren	Roxaboxen
Karin Lynn Williams	Galimoto
Courage	
William Steig	Brave Irene
Bernard Waber	Courage
Maya Angelou	Life Doesn't Frigten Me
Carin Berger	Little Yellow Leaf
Rafe Martin	Rough Face Girl
Patricia Polacco	Thunder Cake

Beginning of the School Year Books

AUTHOR	TITLE
Bunting, Eve	The Wednesday Surprise
Cohen, Mirian	Will I have a friend
DePaola, Tomi	Oliver Button is a Sissy
Edited: Flowers/ Hopkins	School Supplies (POETRY)
Giff, Patricia Riley	Next Year I'll Be Special
Giff, Patricia Riley	Today was a Terrible Day
Henkes, Kevin	Chrysanthemum
Keller, Charles	School Daze (JOKES)
Kraus, Robert	Leo the Late Bloomer
Kraus, Robert	Little Louie and the Baby Bloomer
Polacco, Patricia	Thank you, Mr. Faulker
Paul Fleischman	Weslandia
Sarah Kilborne	Peach and Blue
Harriet Ziefert	39 Uses for a Friend
Alexis O'Neill	Mean Jean, the Recess Queen
Sharleen Collicot	Toestomper and the Caterpillars