

“Hello, my bear cubs,” says Father Bear, *Pâpâ Maskwa*.  
“Mother Earth has gifted us with a beautiful day.”  
Today, *Pâpâ Maskwa* is going to show the cubs how to  
catch their first salmon. “We are going to go to the river.  
*Âstam*, come, my cubs and follow me.”

# Exploring Elapsed Time Through Indigenous Story

Jennifer Dionne, Samantha Morey, Rhonda Girard

“There are many things you need to know about the river.  
You may play, but play safely near the water. We will see many  
of our friends along the way; they will teach us many things.”



*How I got started*

- Previous connection to Sam (Grade 5/6 teacher) through UNBC
- Passionate about choosing a story connected to Lheidli T'enneh, *The First Salmon Run The Bear Cubs' Adventure* had recently been published

*What I did*

- Where can I find math in this story?
- Co taught a unit on time with a Sam (Grade 5/6) including elapsed time
- Co-created a project with Sam
- Invited Rhonda to visit the class to share her story and the process she went through writing her book
- explored the story again the following day with a math lens





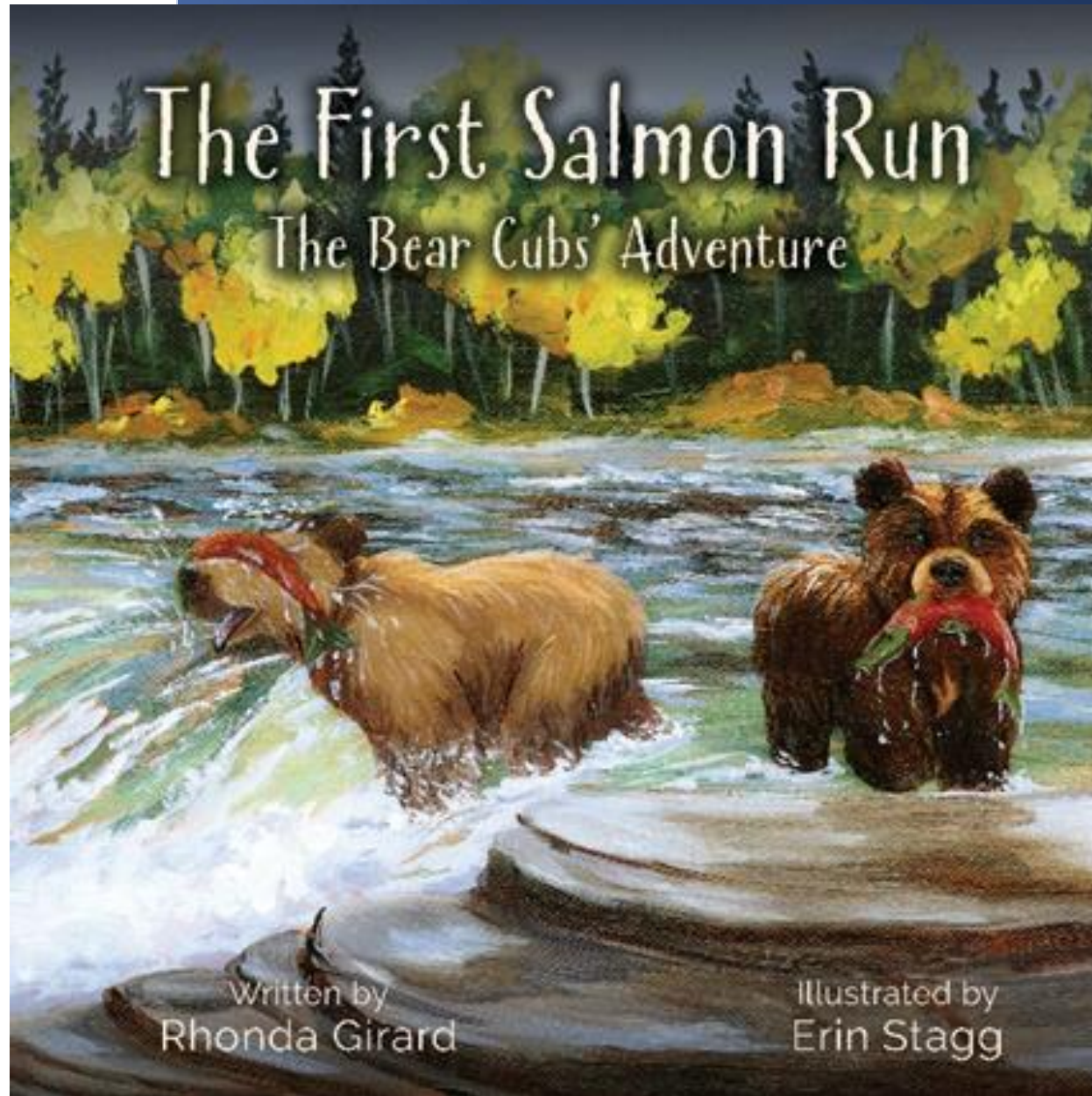
### *What I learned*

- Math can be explored through Indigenous stories
- My relationship with Sam progressed from mentor to colleague, and I began learning from her
- When an author shares their story, the learning for students is powerful

### *Where I am going from here*

- Continue to work with Rhonda in a Grade 3 class, connecting the story to estimating time, using environmental references and natural daily/seasonal cycles

This totem story is intricately woven with the Swampy Cree Language. This story introduces children to the Indigenous culture sharing the virtues of Mother Earth and oral tradition.

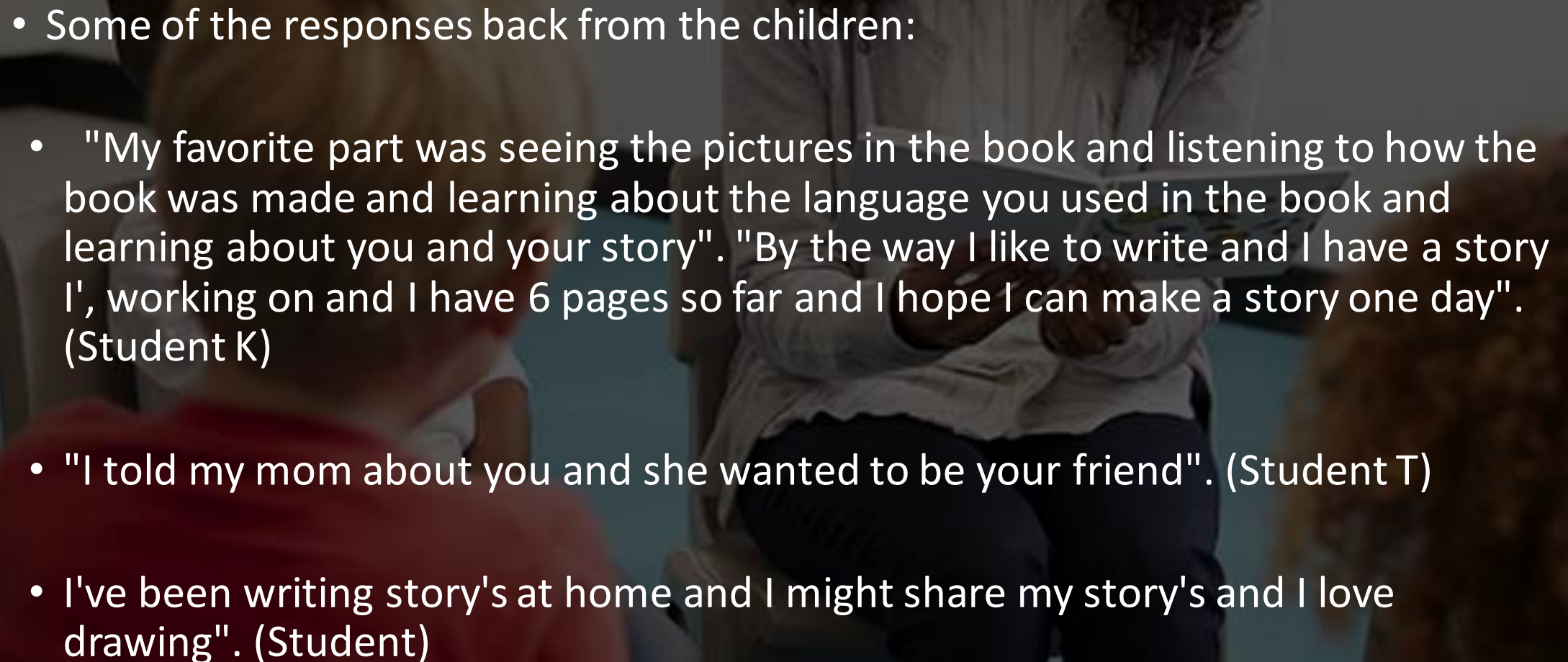






Sharing my story:

Father Bear- Papa Maskwa is taking his two bear cubs to the river for their first salmon run. Along their journey , they meet their friends squirrel,(anikwacas), seal, (ahkik), and salmon,(sosasiw).With each friend, the cubs learn lessons in friendship, determination and courage.

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- A woman with curly hair, wearing a light-colored shirt, is sitting and reading a book to a group of children. The children are sitting around her, and the scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a classroom or library. The woman is smiling and looking down at the book. The children are looking towards her with interest.
- Some of the responses back from the children:
    - "My favorite part was seeing the pictures in the book and listening to how the book was made and learning about the language you used in the book and learning about you and your story". "By the way I like to write and I have a story I', working on and I have 6 pages so far and I hope I can make a story one day". (Student K)
    - "I told my mom about you and she wanted to be your friend". (Student T)
    - I've been writing story's at home and I might share my story's and I love drawing". (Student)





Questions from  
the Students.





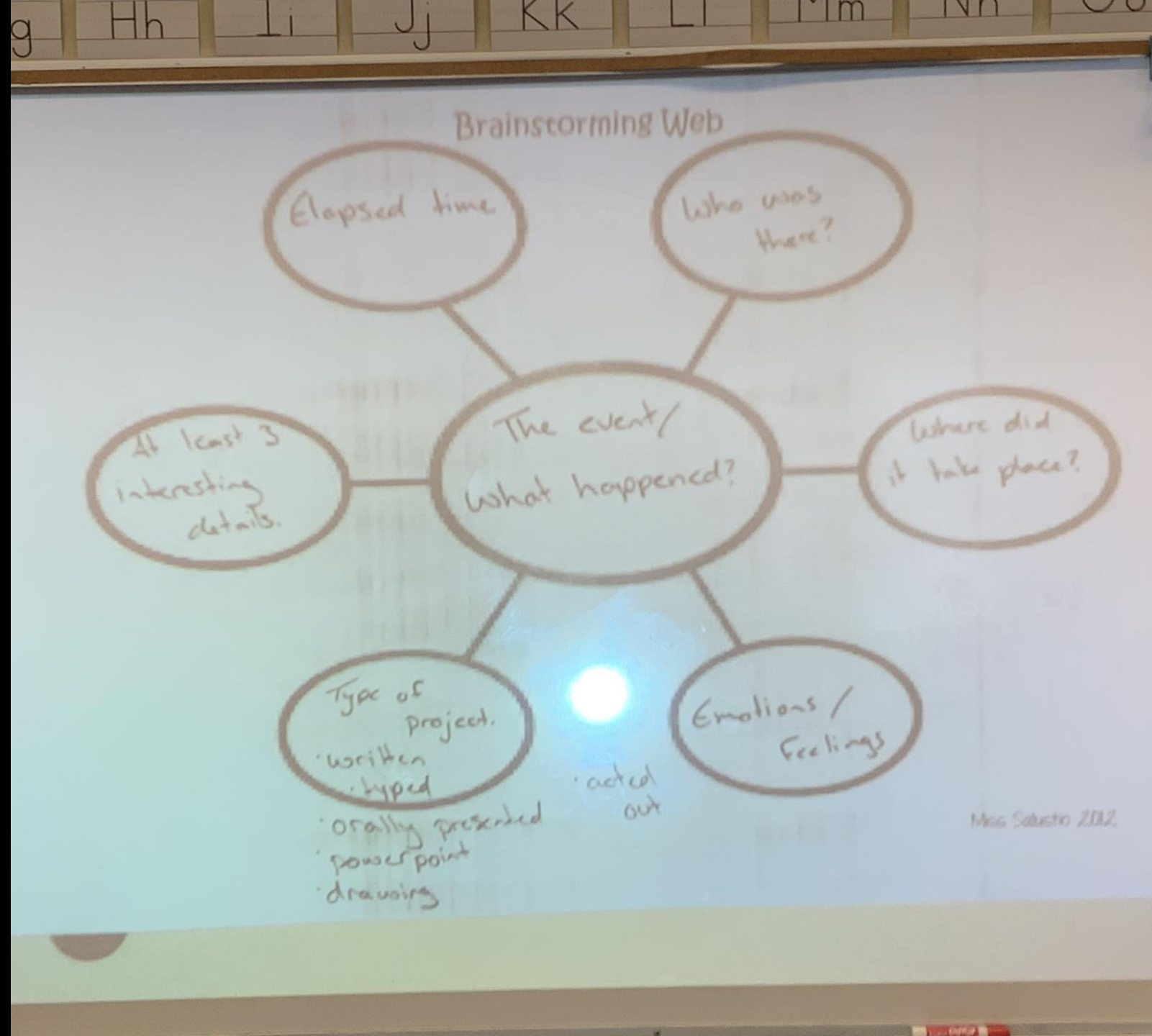
Follow your dreams

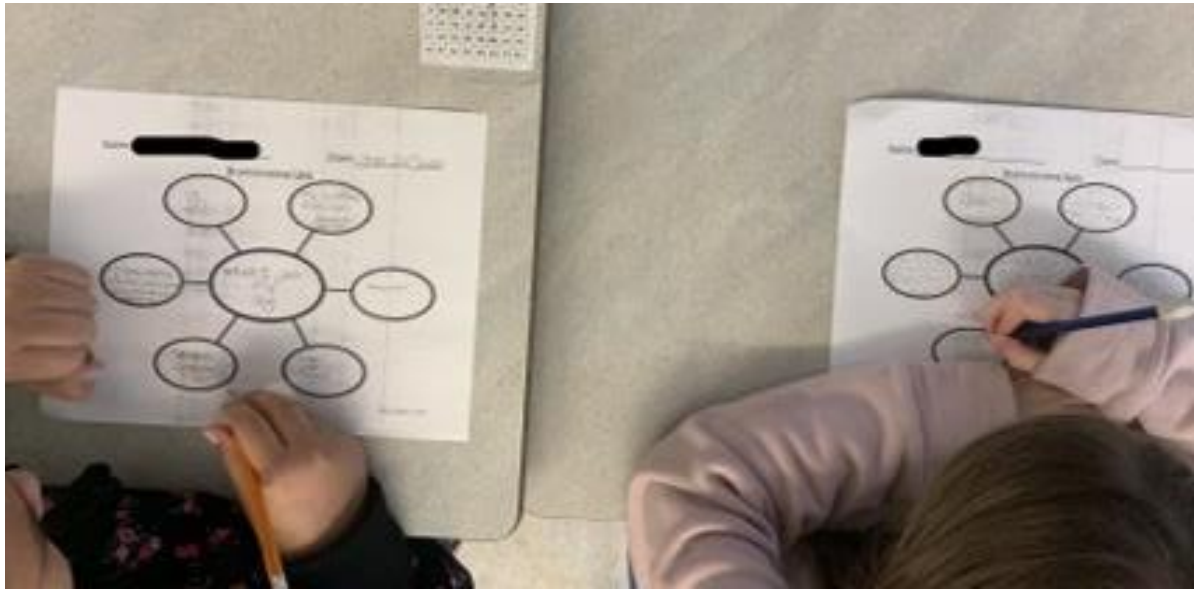
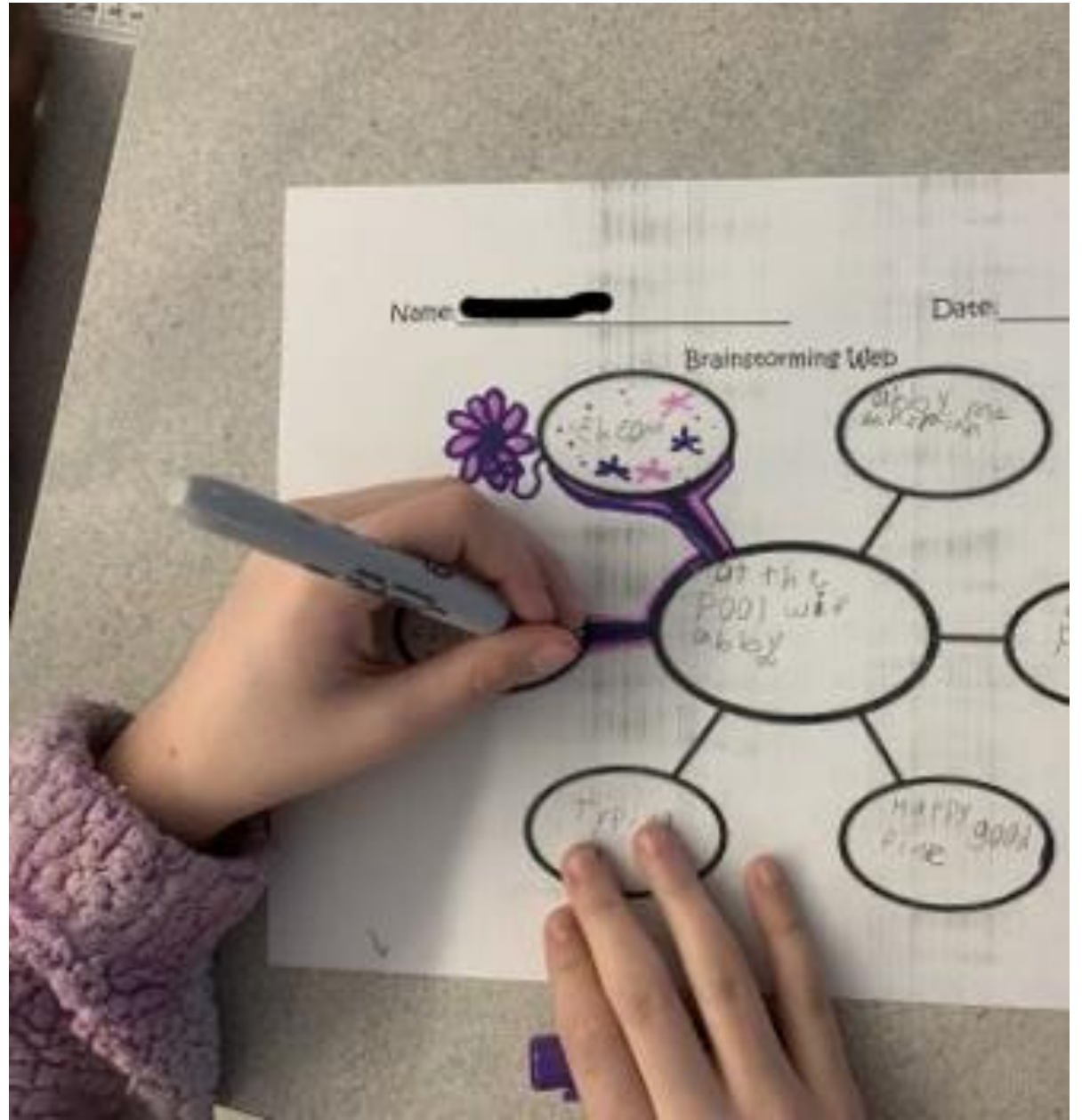
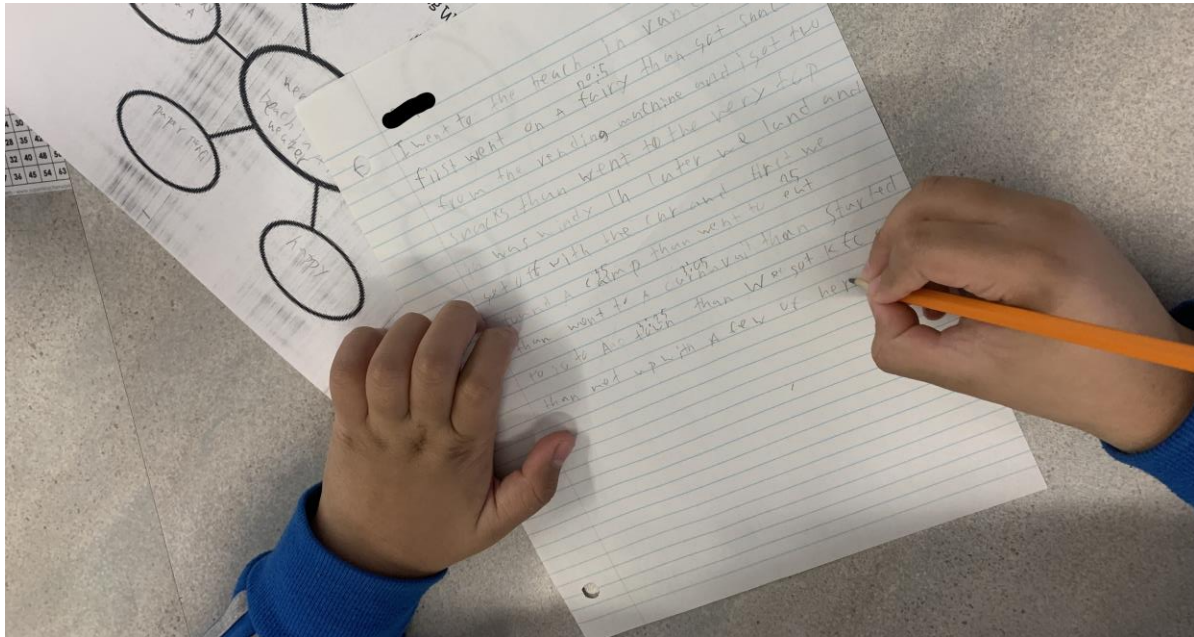


Grade 5/6 Project  
Examples  
Samantha Morey  
(classroom teacher)

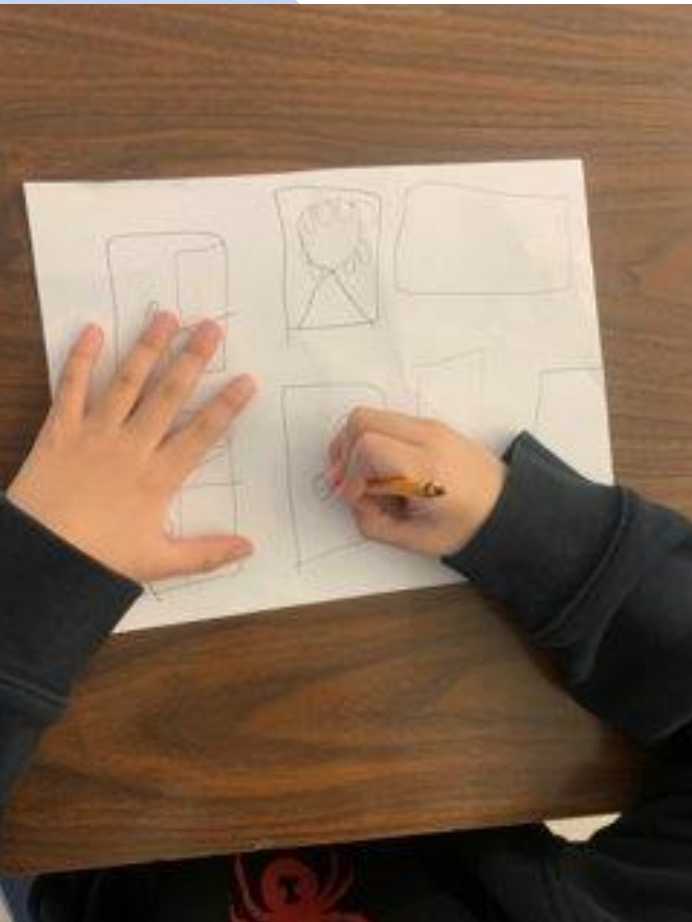
*"Learning is embedded  
in memory, history, and  
story."*

First Peoples Principle of Learning  
[www.fnesc.ca](http://www.fnesc.ca)









# Going to the fair

By



## How Long Was I There?

- 7 hours



## Who Was There?

- Me, a new friend, my brother, and Ben.



## Where Did It Take Place?

- The Ferris Wheel
- In Prince George, B.C.
- In the CN Center parking lot ☺



## How Were We Feeling?

- My brother was feeling scared. He was crying.
- My new friend was feeling no emotion.
- I was feeling excited to scare my brother.
- Ben was feeling no emotion.



## Stuff That Happened

- Friend pushed my brother underneath the Ferris Wheel (just his head)
- My brother was too scared to go on The Zipper.
- Then we all went back to my food truck.



# Camping in the summer

In last summer I went camping with my cousin Rosie and Brooklyn and my grandma and Rosie and Brooklyn's mom. And then we went berry picking and we went back at the camp site and there was a bear just chilling eating blueberries and we went to go get more berries and me and Rosie and Brooklyn and my grandma. But me and my cousin and I think he's my cousin I don't know and his name is Leelen but we were in the back of the truck and it was so fun. And I'm going camping next summer and go swimming.









The time I went to a waterpark in Edmonton.

I went to a waterpark at 1:30 pm in Edmonton with me and my brother and dad went to a waterpark in Edmonton mall.

I wanted to go on the water slide there so I did it was a lot of fun then me and my bother and my dad went to the wave pool.

The wave pool was cold so after I went on another water slide then. I went to the sauna then after I went to the hot tub and that was fun. Then after I saw a zipline in the waterpark but I didn't go on the zipline but it did look cool. Then we were going to leave the water park soon because it was 2:45 then I went back to the wave pool and then. I went to the water slide that was fast that was my favorite waterslide there. Then it was time to leave the waterpark it was 3:04 and we left the waterpark. And my favorite part was the fast waterslide I Liked the waterpark a lot.



## *Beach day in PEI*

*Mom: In a few days we are going to PEI.  
[saying excitedly]!*

*Me: I am so excited [jumping up and  
down]!*

*Nearer: A few days latter they went to PEI.  
They spent a few days in PEI.*

*Papa: Aunty Jody, Winy, and Jean are going  
to be here soon*

*Theo: Bark Bark*

*Nanny: I am so existed 😊!*

*Jody: We are here.*