Photography and Poetry in Children's Literature: An Illustrated Journey Through Environment and Place

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Abstract
This creative independent study project began as a photo documentation of the environment along a two-week hiking trip on the Great South West Walk in Victoria. It developed into a lesson in experiential education in nature and environmental education through children's literature that ultimately produced a photographically illustrated children's story called The Future of Cobboboonee. The story, written in poetry, takes the main characters on an adventure into an unfamiliar world in search of more space for expanding their population. Ultimately, they learn lessons of sustainability and conclude that they must conserve their home, for it is all they have.

I used experiential education to learn for myself what it means to live away from society; to gather an outside perspective on the direction we are taking our planet. I documented the experience with a Nikon D80 digital SLR camera and three lenses. When I returned from my trip, I edited the photos to create the illustrations for my children's story, which would establish a setting and mood for the story. The story is told through poetry that reads easily and humorously.

The book is intended to be used as a tool for environmental education for children as well as adults. It draws on the existing body of work by Australian authors and explores the potential for further developments into the field.

Disciplines
Natural Resources and Conservation | Sustainability

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Locke recommended that to encourage reading, a child should be given an "easy pleasant book suited to his capacity." Discover librarian-selected research resources on Children's Poetry from the Questia online library, including full-text online books, academic journals, magazines, newspapers and more. The first literature written specifically for children was intended to instruct them. During the Middle Ages the Venerable Bede, Aelfric, St. Aldhelm, and St. Anselm all wrote school texts in Latin, some of which were later used in schools in England and colonial America. More enjoyable and enduring fare came later when William Caxton, England's first printer, published Aesop's Fables (1484) and Sir Thomas Malory's Morte d'Arthur (1485). The hornbook, invented at the end of the 15th cent., taught children the alphabet, numerals, and the Lord's Prayer.