

Nature Based Education Institute

May 19, 2018

Sponsored by University of Maine at Farmington

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Session Title: What Is a Book If Not a Sanctuary?

Session O 2:00-3:15

Location: Conference Room 123

Presenters

- Molly Kellogg (m.o.kellogg@gmail.com)

Who will benefit most from this session?

- Primary grade educators (Pk-3)

Who else may benefit:

- Early educators (B-5 age students)
- Upper elementary educators (Grade 4-6)
- Out of school educators (4-H, museum, camp settings)

Session Description: Books fill so many needs for readers of all sorts; they are friends, guides, and teachers. They inspire, inform, and challenge us. Come explore the power of literature to meet the varied social/emotional needs of children, with a particular focus on gifted learners. In this session, educators will connect learning to nature through the lens of literature. We will use picture books with natural settings and themes as a tool to meet the social and emotional needs of young readers. Books can provide young people with a vital sanctuary, with a connection to someone like themselves, with a new understanding of others and with the opportunity to find solutions to their own problems. When we choose rich, meaningful books that are immersed in nature, we create one more way to meet students' social and emotional needs. This happens when educators draw themes and questions from the books and pull them into outdoor activities that provide students with rigorous, engaging and differentiated learning opportunities. Participants can use these methods and strategies with any fiction or nonfiction books they choose to support their curriculum in any subject area.

Session Learning Outcomes:

1. Participants will strengthen their understanding of the unique social and emotional needs of gifted learners
2. Participants will draw themes and questions from nature-based literature and connect them to engaging and challenging activities outside.

How will participants engage in nature during your session? In this session, participants will engage with nature through the literature itself since the selected titles are nature focused. Also, participants will spend time outside engaged in activities connected to the books.

Presenter Biography

Molly Kellogg has been an educator for over 19 years, working with children and teachers in grades K-12. She had great fun teaching 5th grade for nine years, then enjoyed the challenge of coordinating and teaching in a gifted program for grades K - 8, and now acts as a consultant for schools, districts and families. She is passionate about meeting the needs of gifted learners! She is also a parent of two busy bees who love to spend as much time outside hanging in trees and climbing on rocks as possible. When she's not teaching, Molly enjoys joining her kids in the trees, reading and writing, and working in her kitchen, where she cooks a lot of veggies and bakes with a lot of chocolate.

