

The Power Of

QUESTIONING



Lessons learned at Opal School Museum of Play

When learning is anchored in exploring questions, educators:

Create a Culture of Inquiry

It is important for educators to remain vulnerable and curious, to model questioning, and to be co-learners alongside their students. This allows the students' explorations within these overarching questions to drive the learning.

Have a Strong Image of the Child

When educators believe that students are capable, competent, resourceful, intelligent, imaginative, creative and full of curiosity, they have high expectations of what students can do.

Students can contemplate questions about big, complex ideas. These explorations allow students to continue to see connections and make meaning of the world, and their role in it.

Set Intentions & Determine Questions

Educators collaborate to set intentions for the learning and determine overarching questions they are genuinely curious to explore with their students. These intentions and questions are made visible to all.

An example of overarching questions in an intention letter:

Big Question: How might the stories we tell help us to discover who we are?

- How can playful interactions help us to understand ourselves and better understand each other?
- What does it mean to belong to a community that recognizes and values differences? How are we the same and different from each other?
- How might our empathy for each other grow as we learn more about our differences?
- What are our rights and responsibilities as members of a community? How can we be positive contributors in our community?

"Questions wake people up. They prompt new ideas. They show people new places, new ways of doing things."

~Michael Marquardt

How might our government's decisions impact our identity as Canadians?

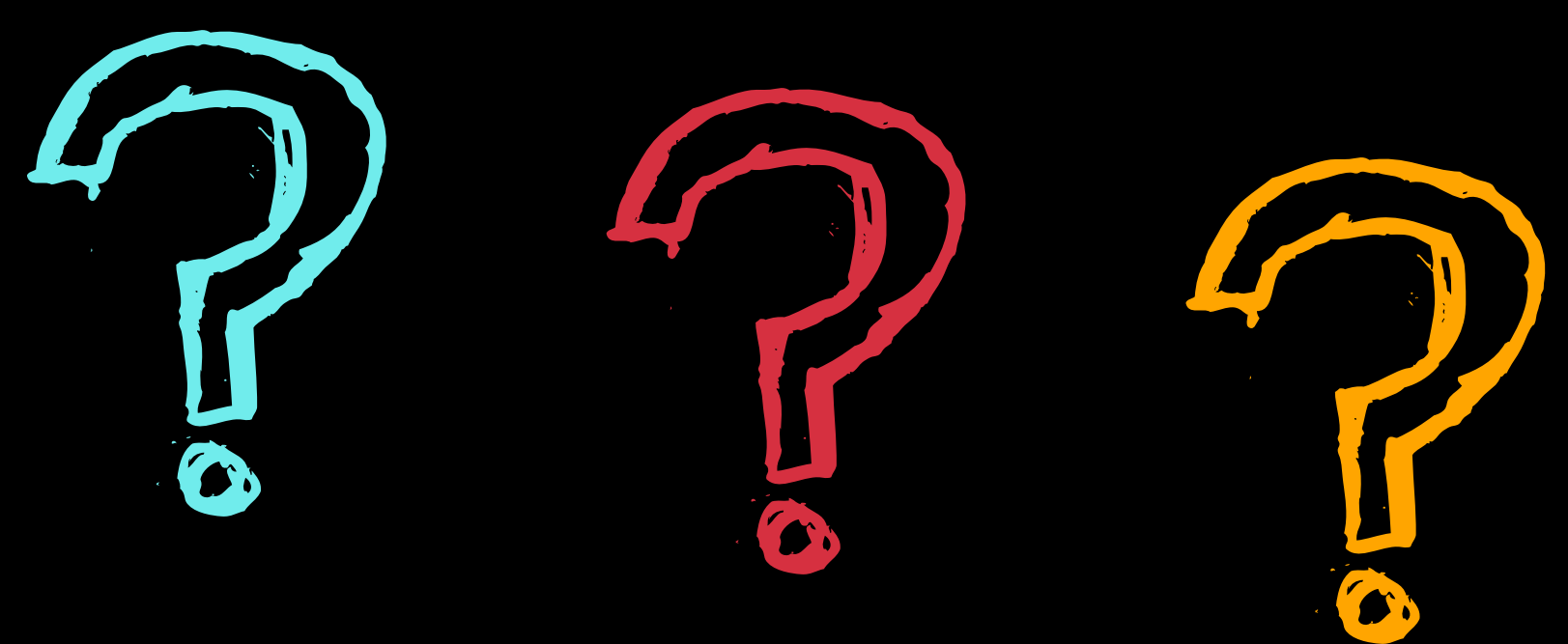
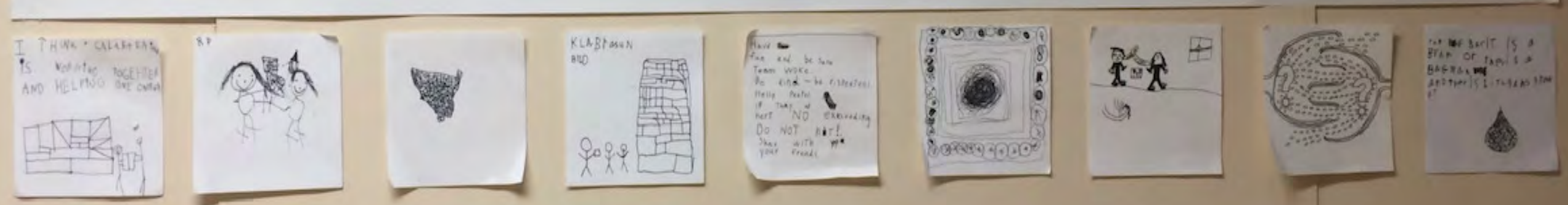
How might your decisions impact others?



What do Mathematicians Do?

- Find new Possibilities
- Make Blue Prints
- Describe play
- Use tools & materials
- Round
- Make theories
- Get inspired
- Explain their thinking.
- Face challenges
- Enjoy Noise details
- Multiply
- Test theories
- Subtract
- Make things
- Try to figure something out.
- Persist with ideas
- Measure
- Collaborate
- Add
- Wonder and ask questions
- Have uncertainties
- Teamwork
- See things in new ways
- Find something new if something doesn't work.
- Divide
- merge ideas
- Have a specific language
- Make discoveries

What does it feel like to collaborate?



How can we build our ideas together?

What story do you want to put into a book?



What might children uncover about the heart of democracy while playing with the arts and each other?



How can a little change make a big difference?



What happens when we allow ourselves to become more comfortable with uncertainty?

Listening means being open to differences, recognizing the value of another's point of view and interpretation. Listening also...

What matters most in a world where everyone has a voice?

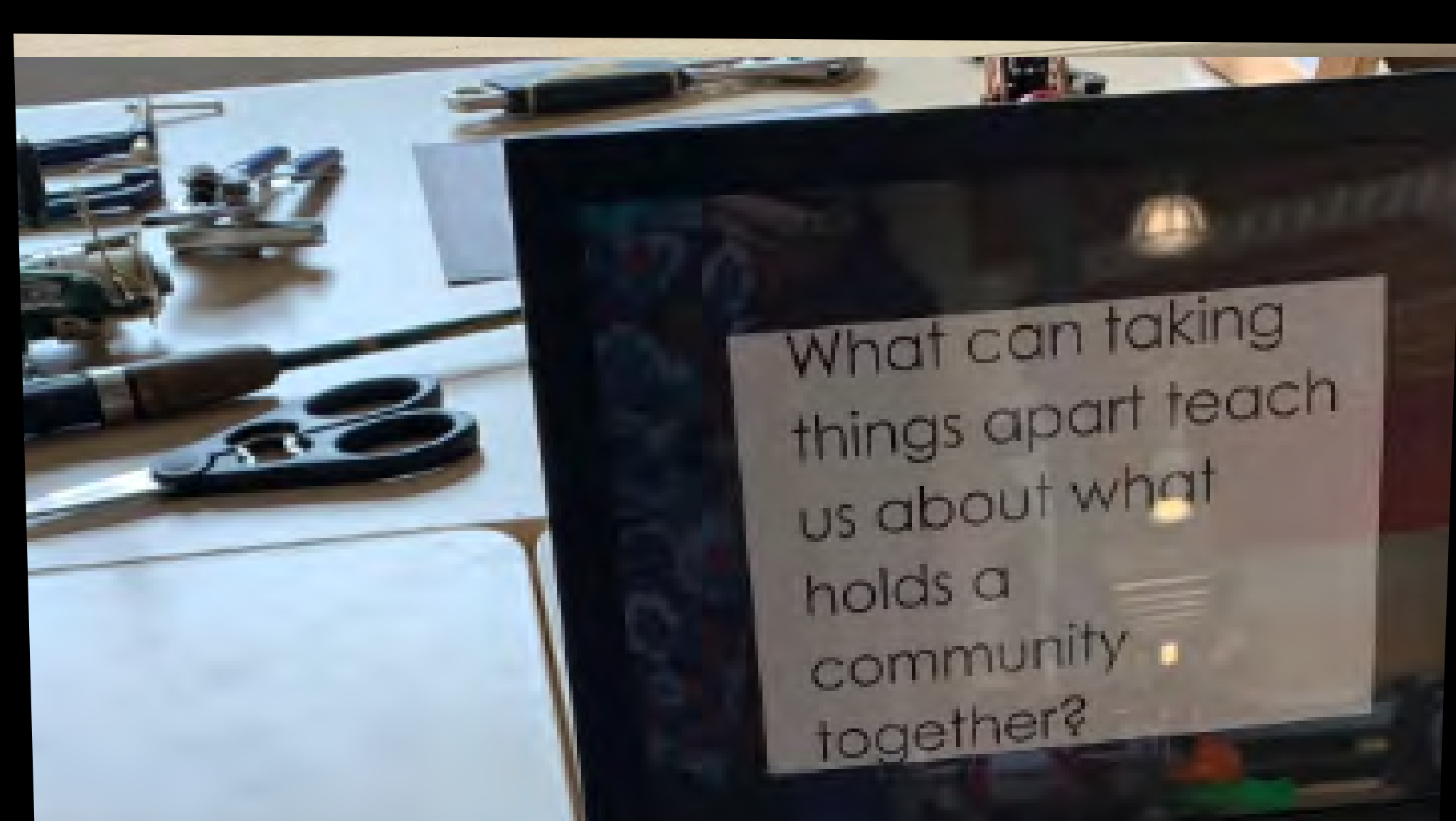
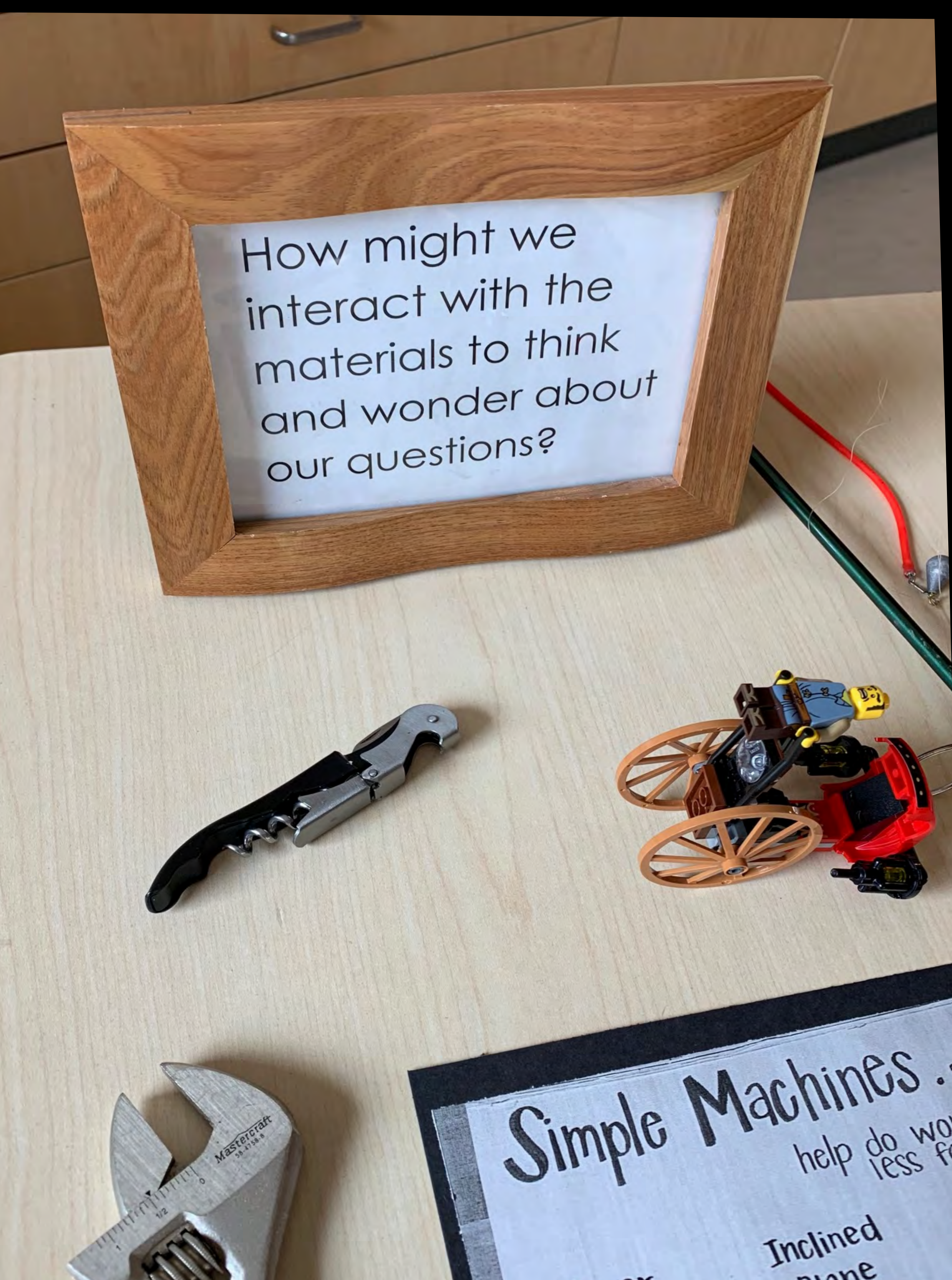
We are not separated by our differences, but connected by our differences. It is because of my difference that I am useful to you because I offer another...

The words we use create the worlds children live in.

Peter Johnston



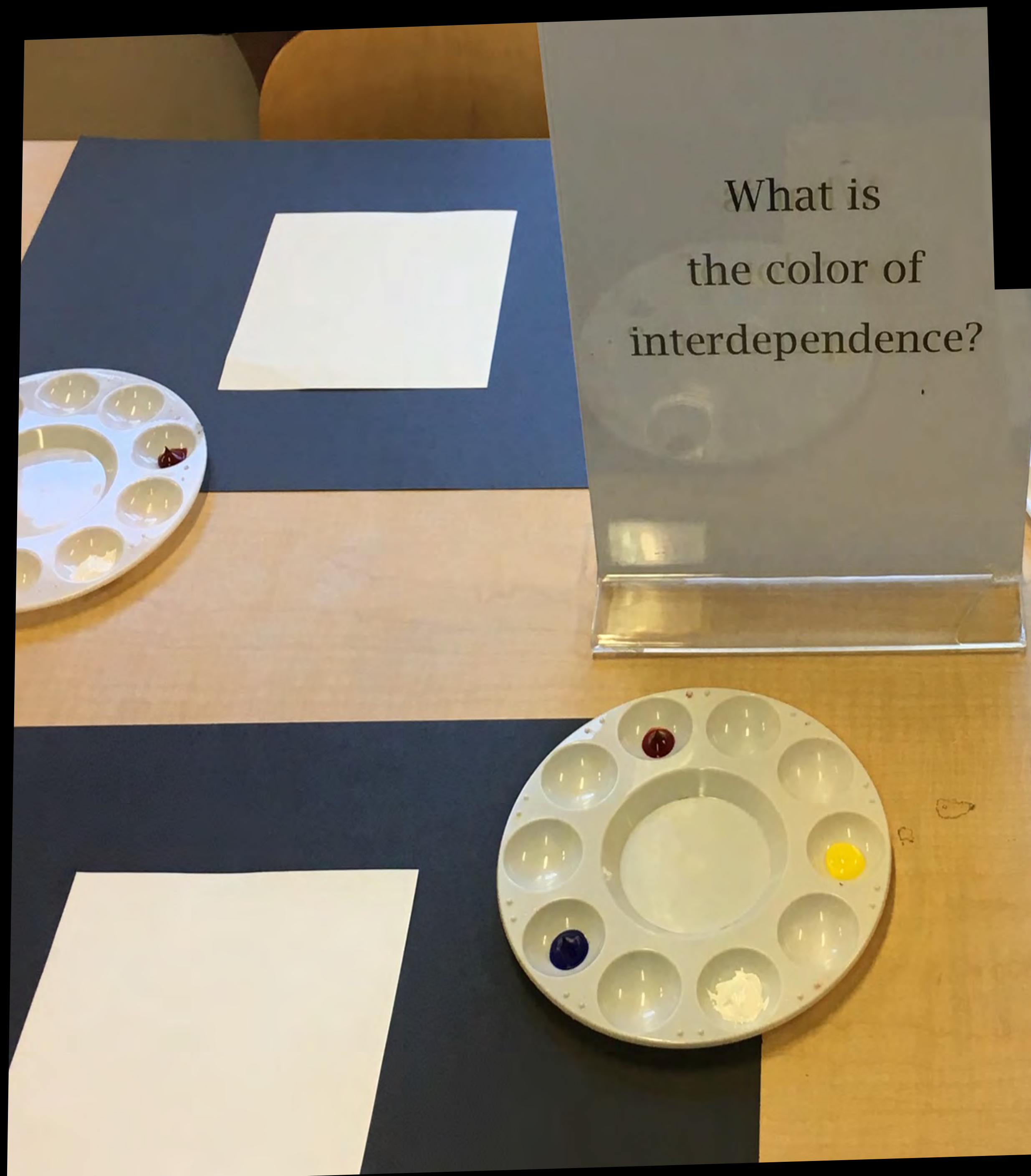
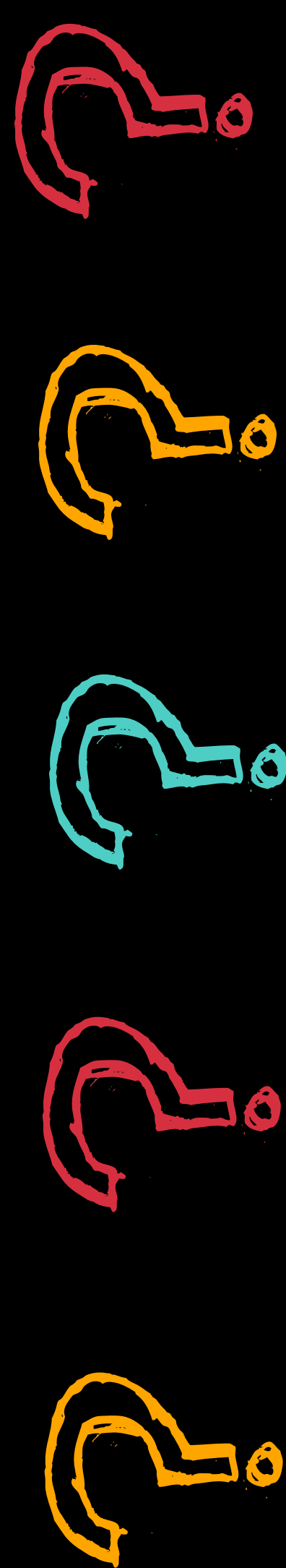
From simple to complex
What do we notice, think and wonder about machines?



What can studying salmon teach us about...
Ourselves?
Each other?
Communities?

Why study watersheds?
What can they teach us about interdependence?
Impact? Awareness?

What are people's rights?
What are children's rights?
What are salmon's rights?



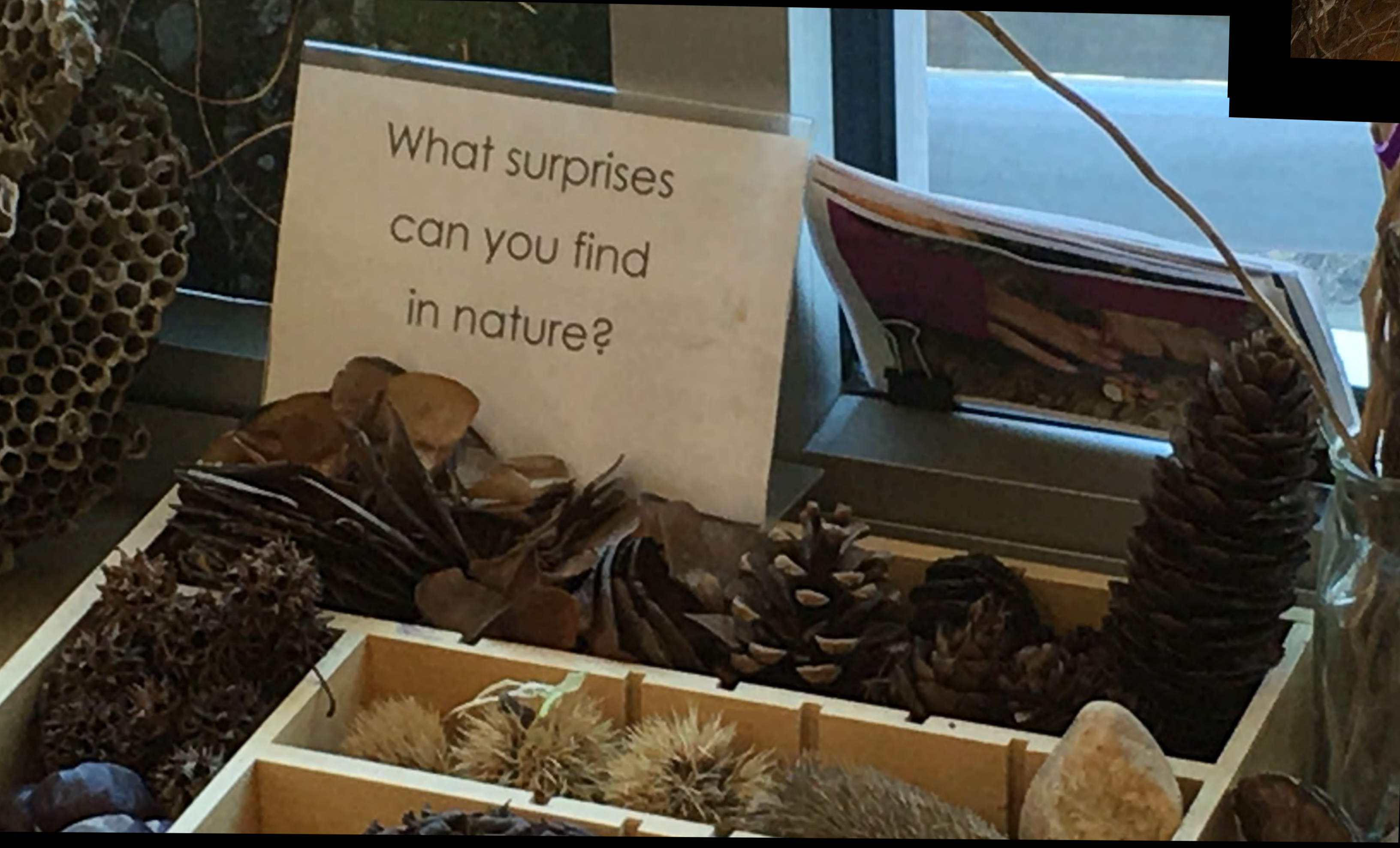
What project do you want to create to make the world a better place?



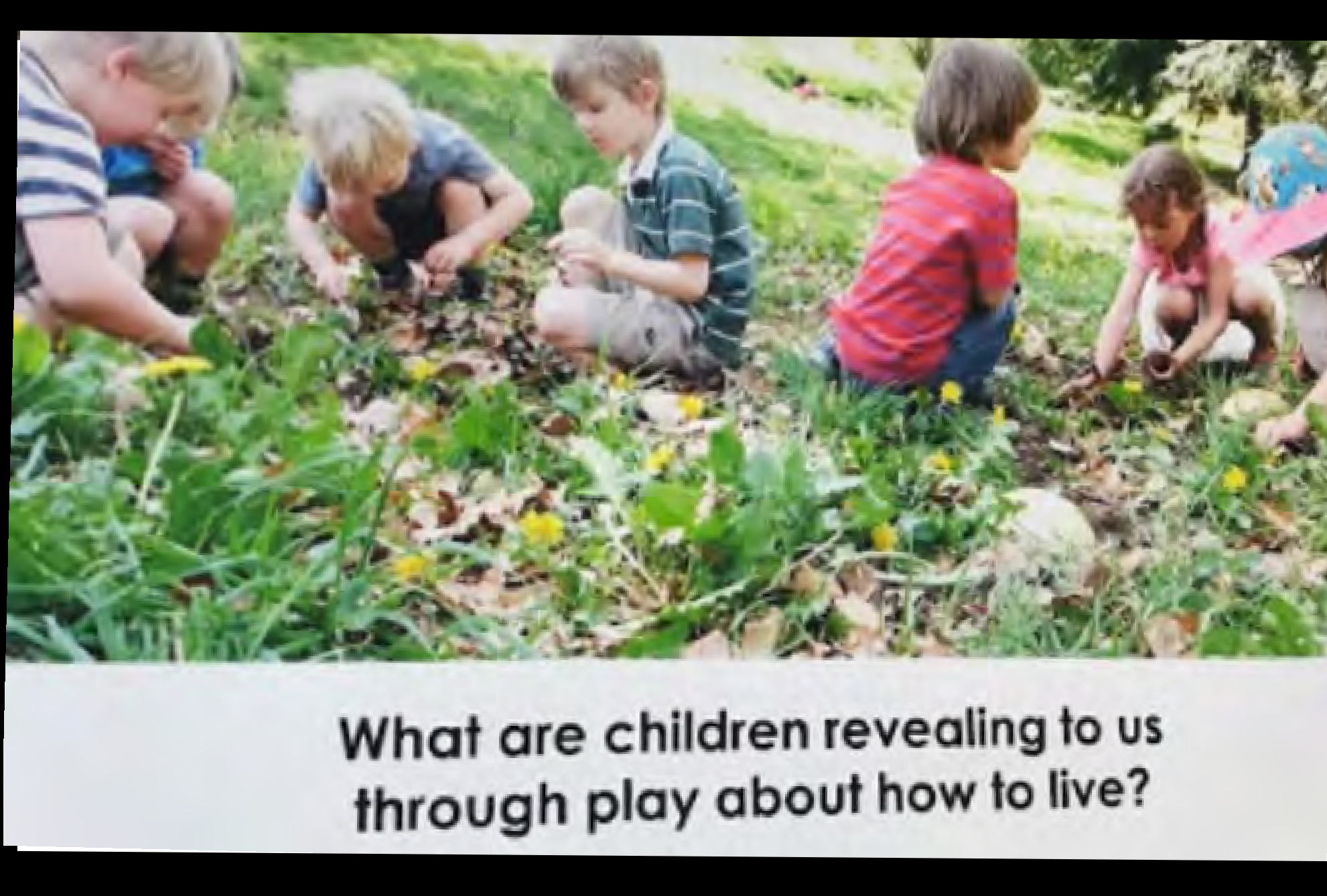
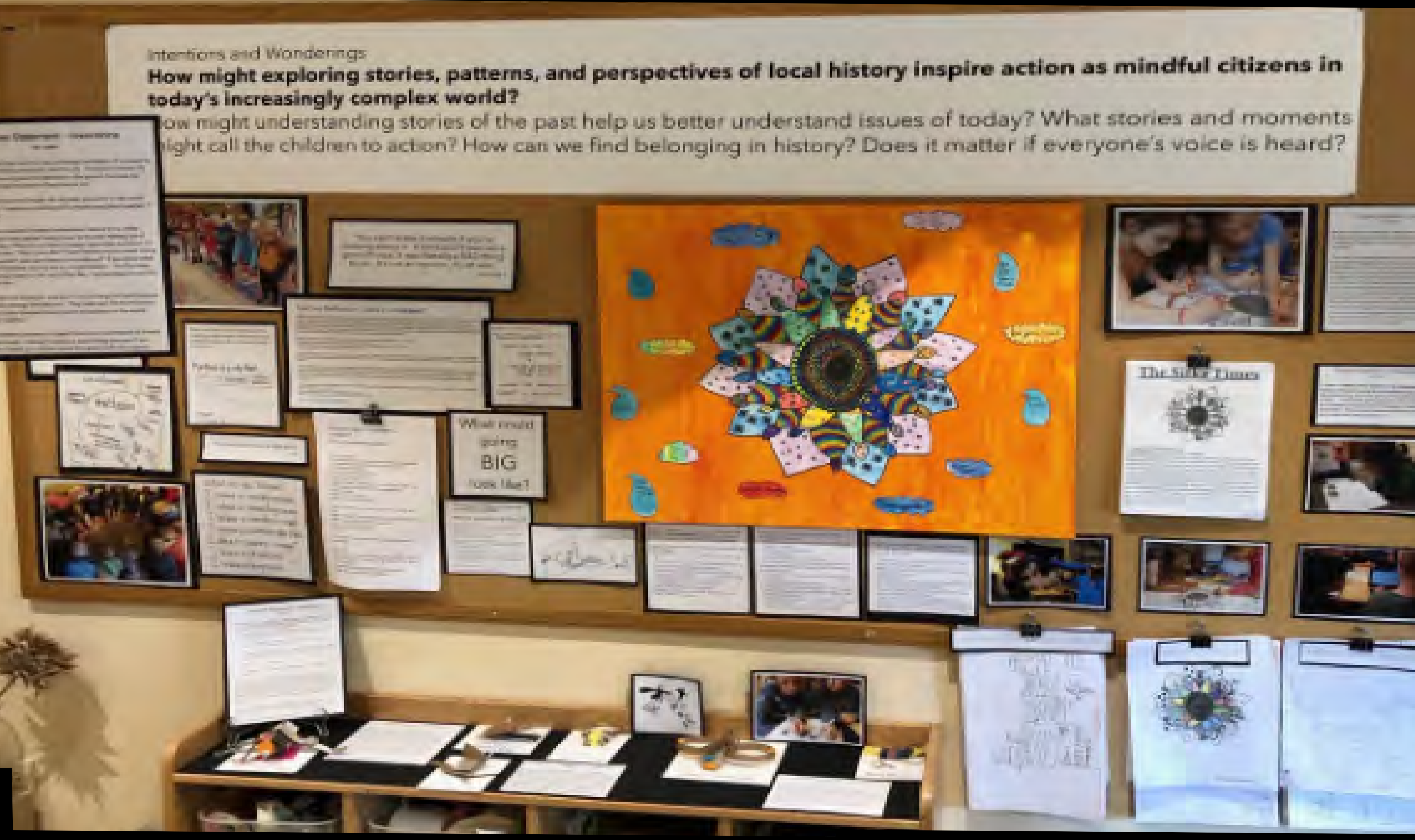
LOOK CLOSELY.

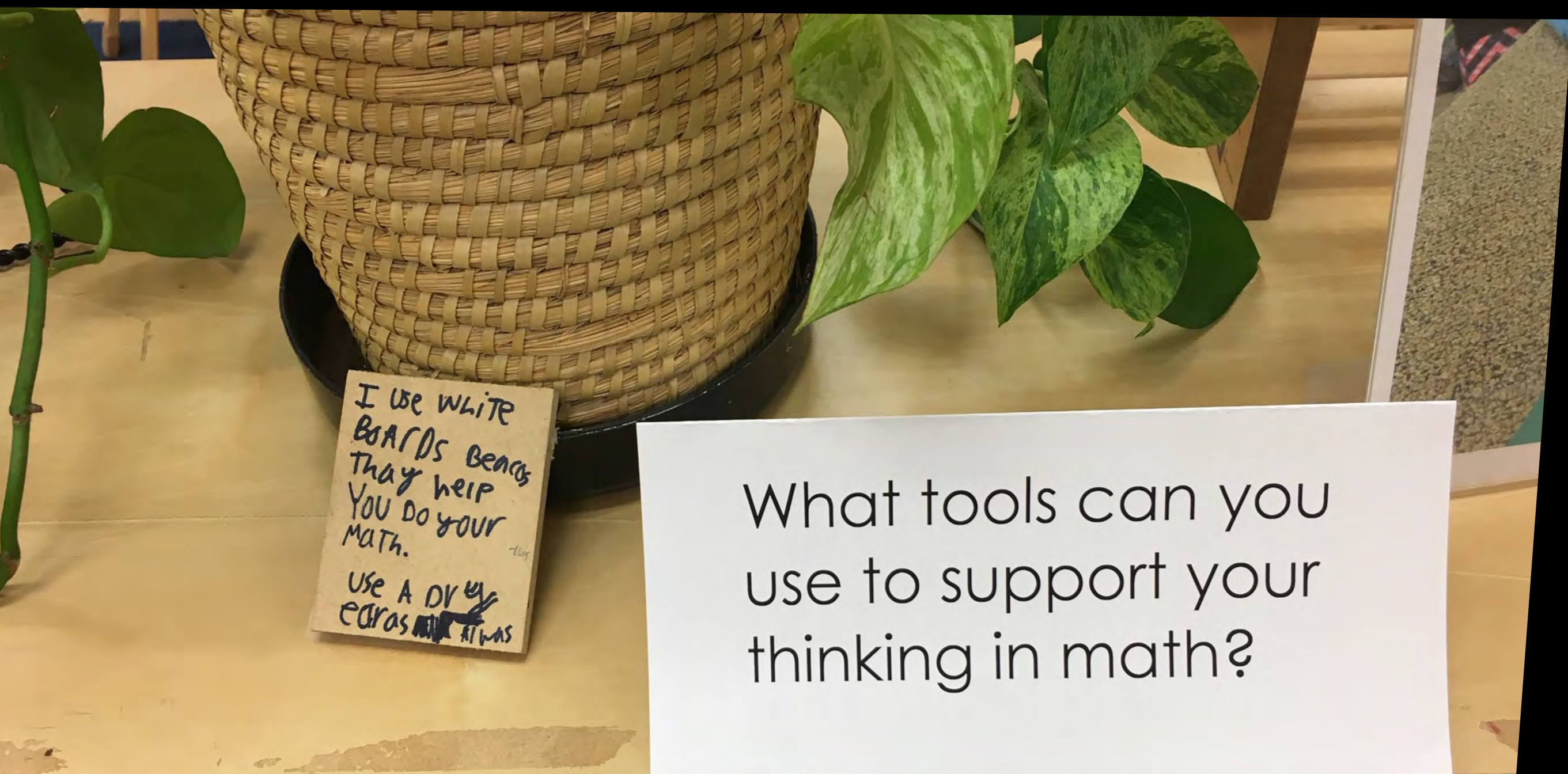
TAKE YOUR TIME.

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

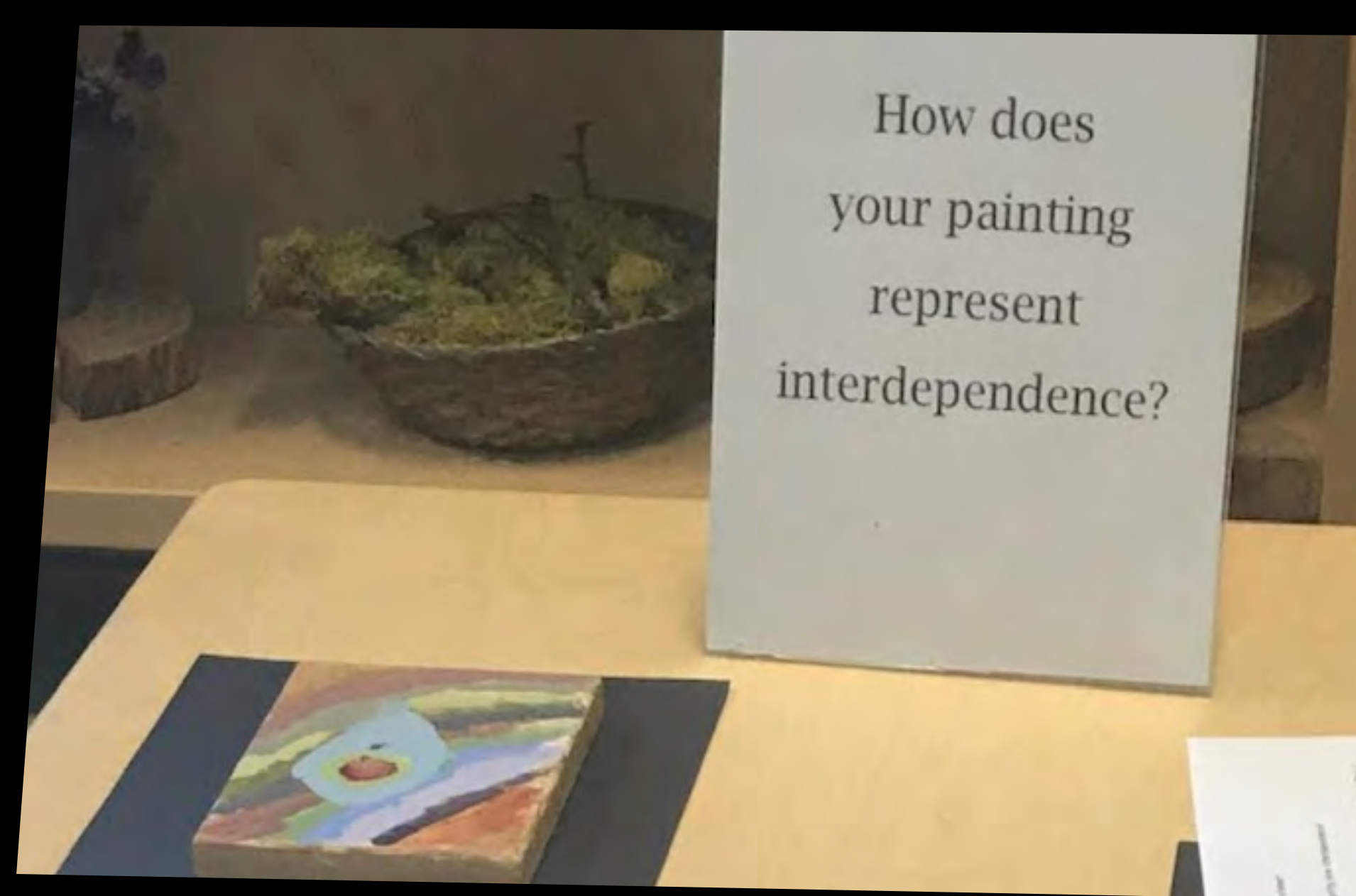


When children create a world together from their collective imaginations, strengths, and joys, what becomes possible?

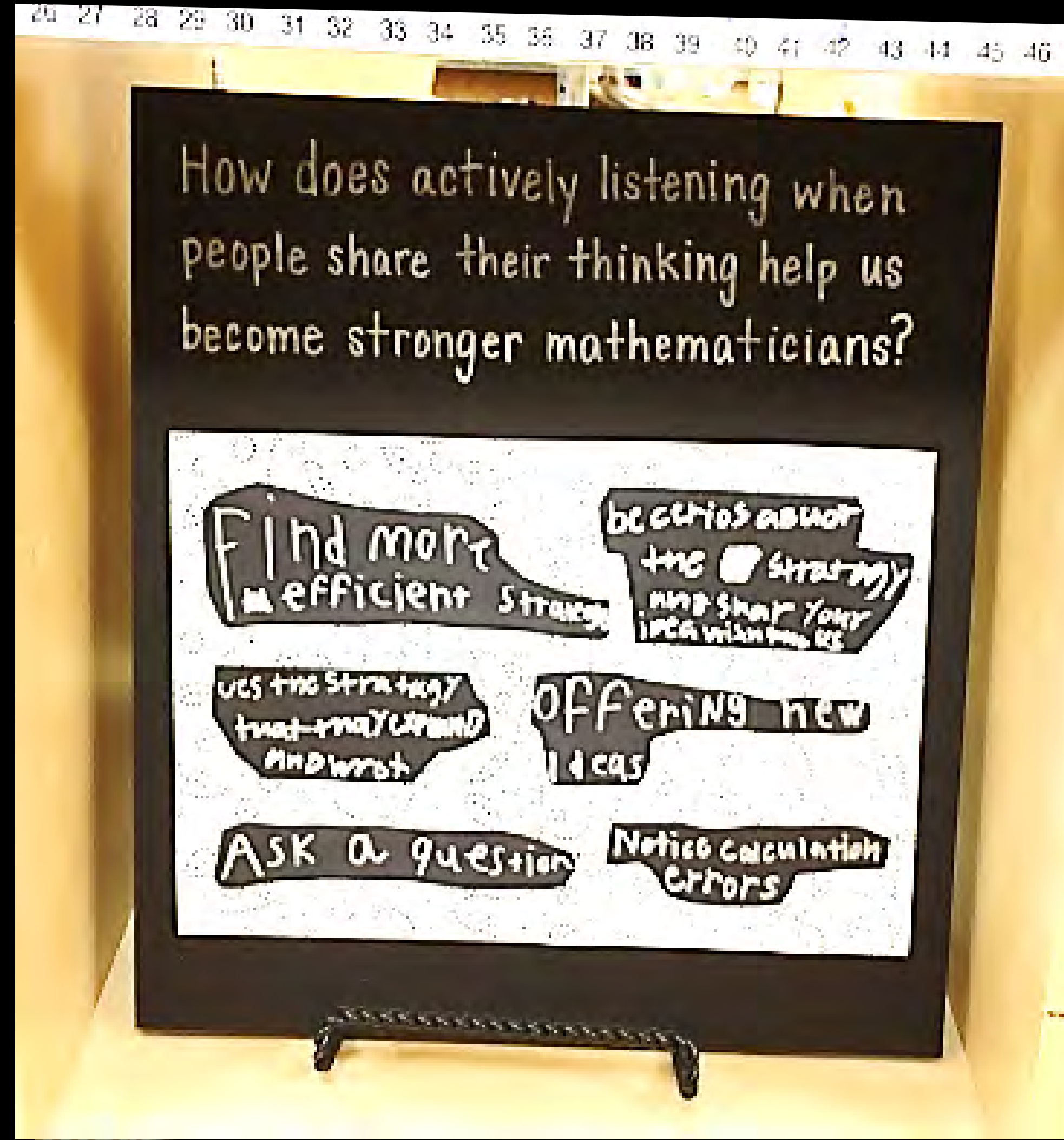
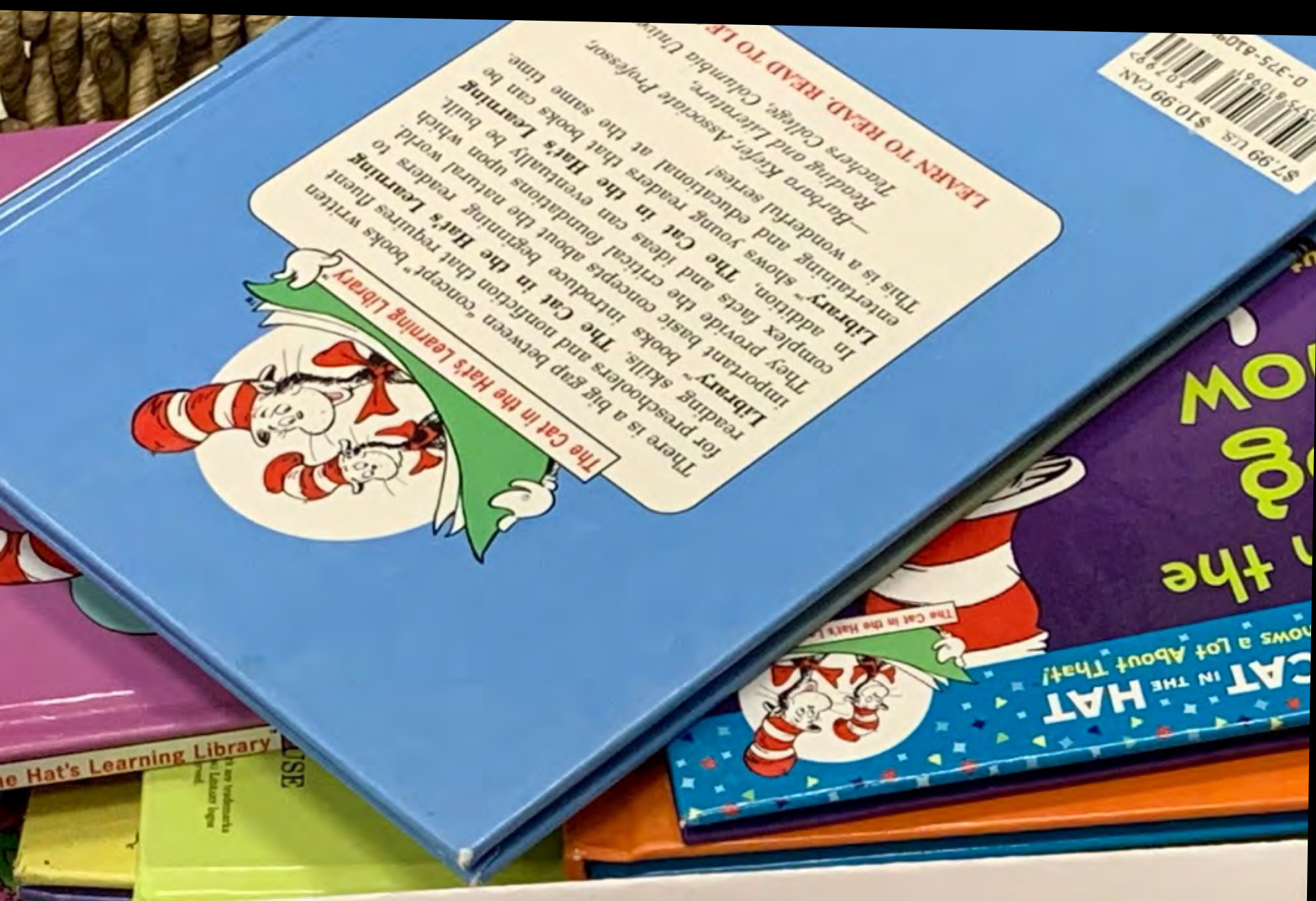
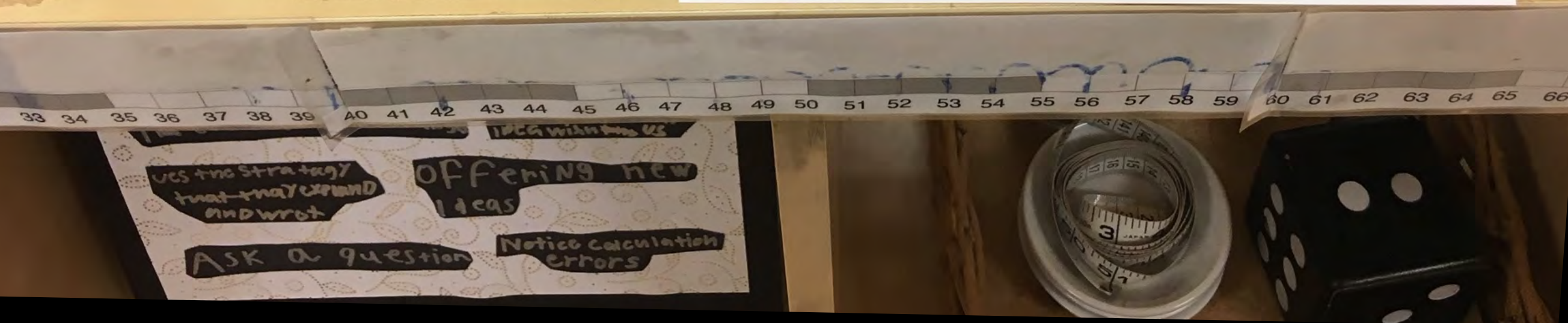




What tools can you use to support your thinking in math?



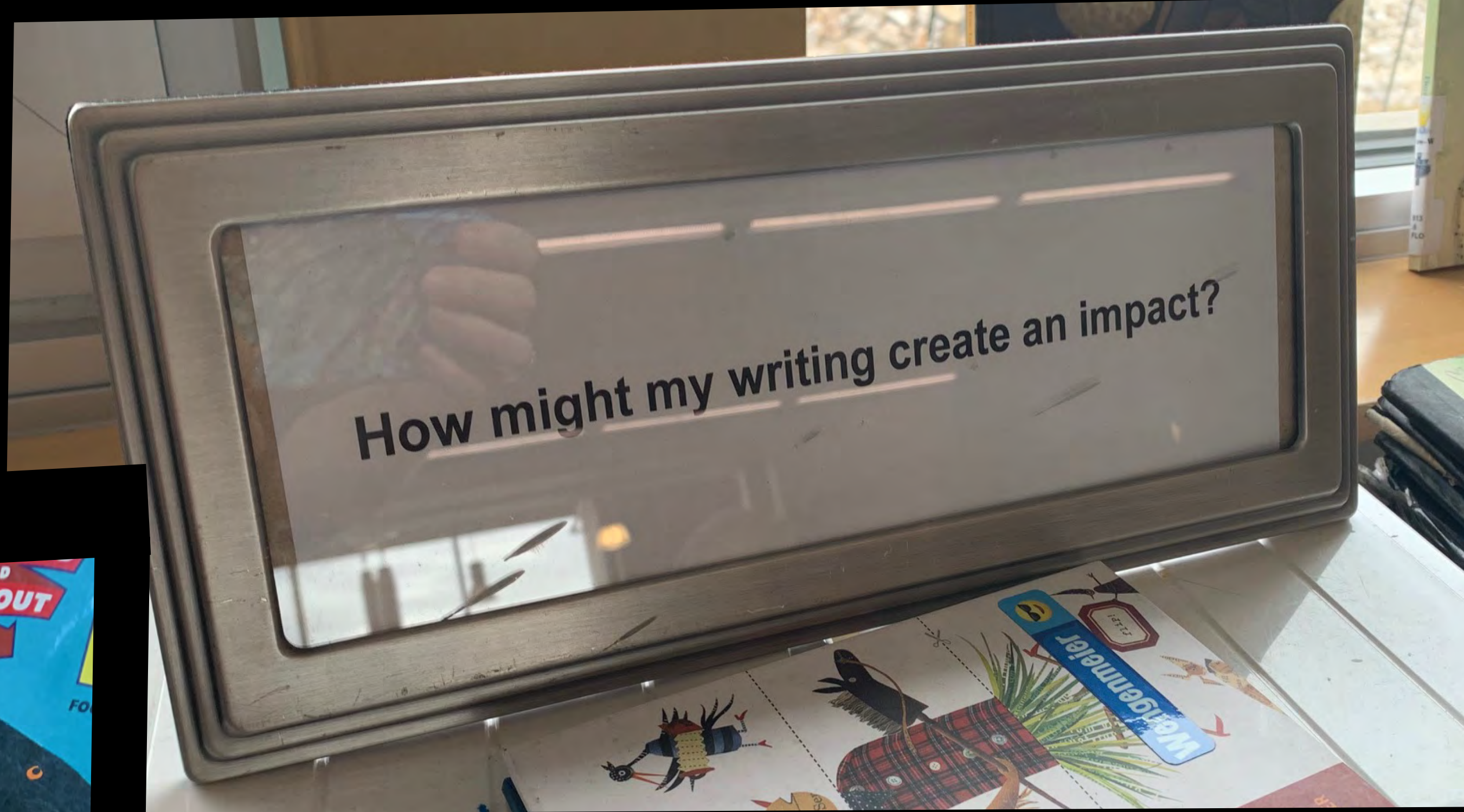
How does your painting represent interdependence?



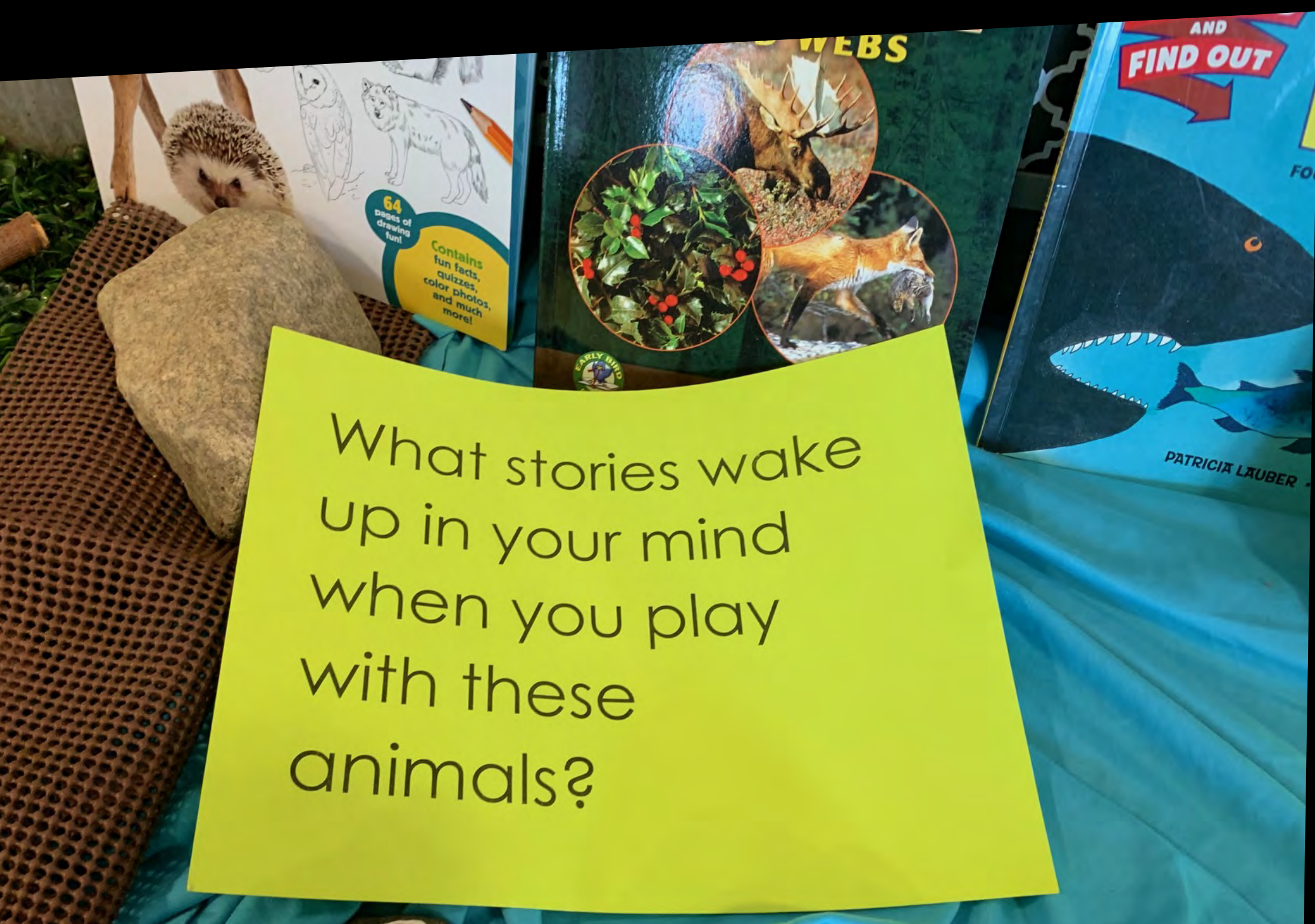
How does actively listening when people share their thinking help us become stronger mathematicians?

Find more efficient strategies
becomes about the strategy and share your idea with the class
uses the strategy treat-mat/corand and wrap
OFFERING new ideas
ASK or question
Notice calculation errors

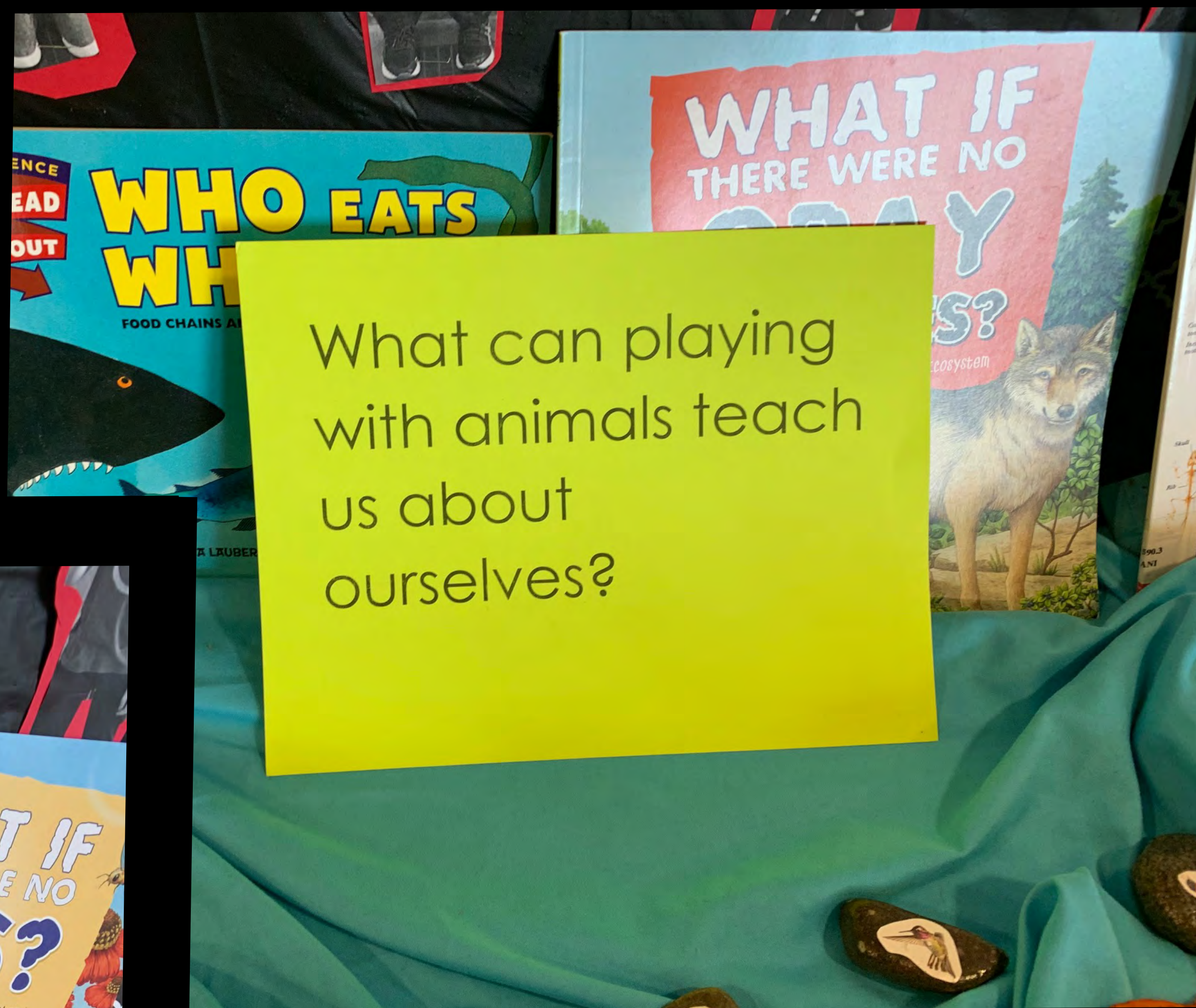
What evidence of plants and animals "merging" can you find in books?



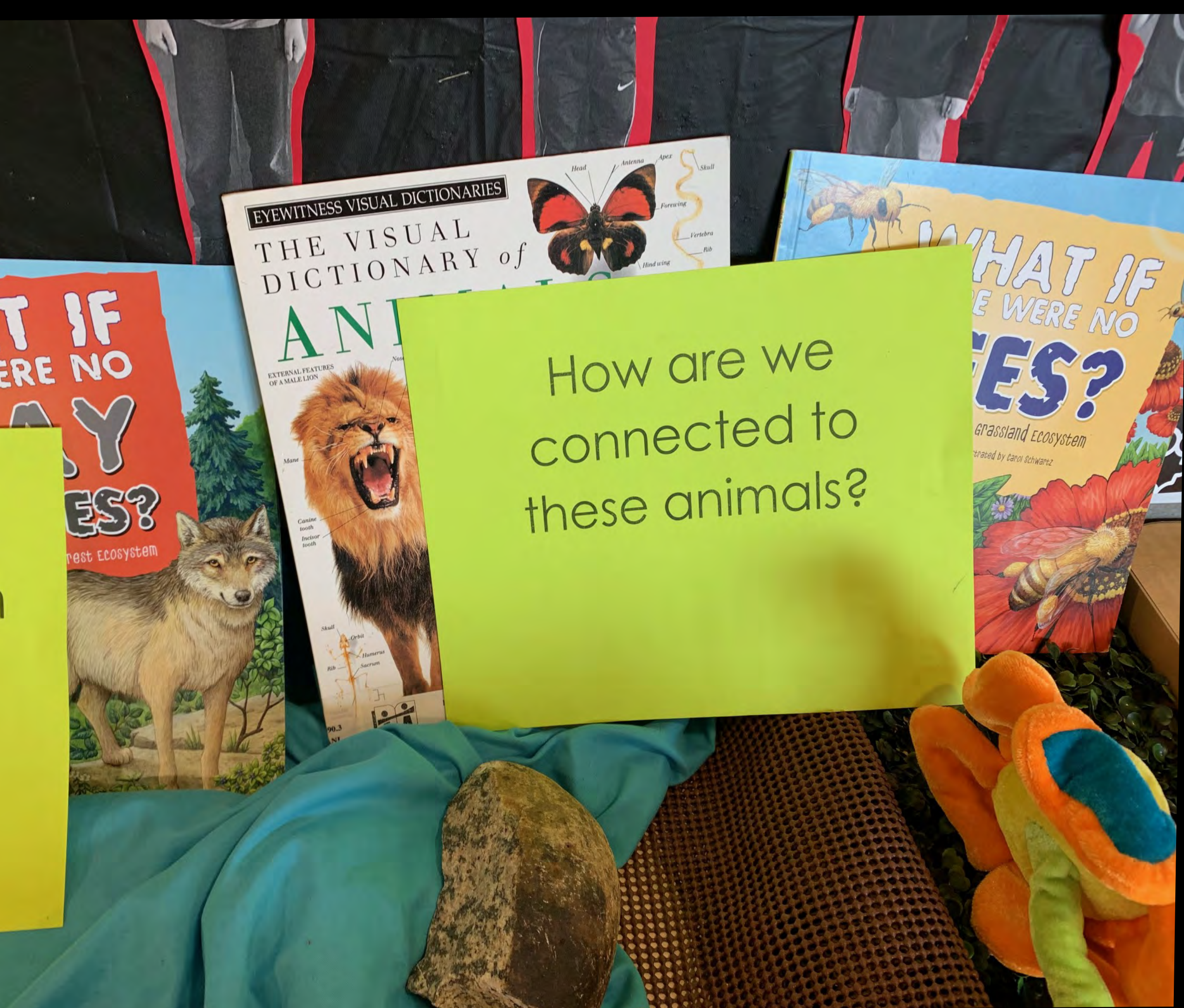
How might my writing create an impact?



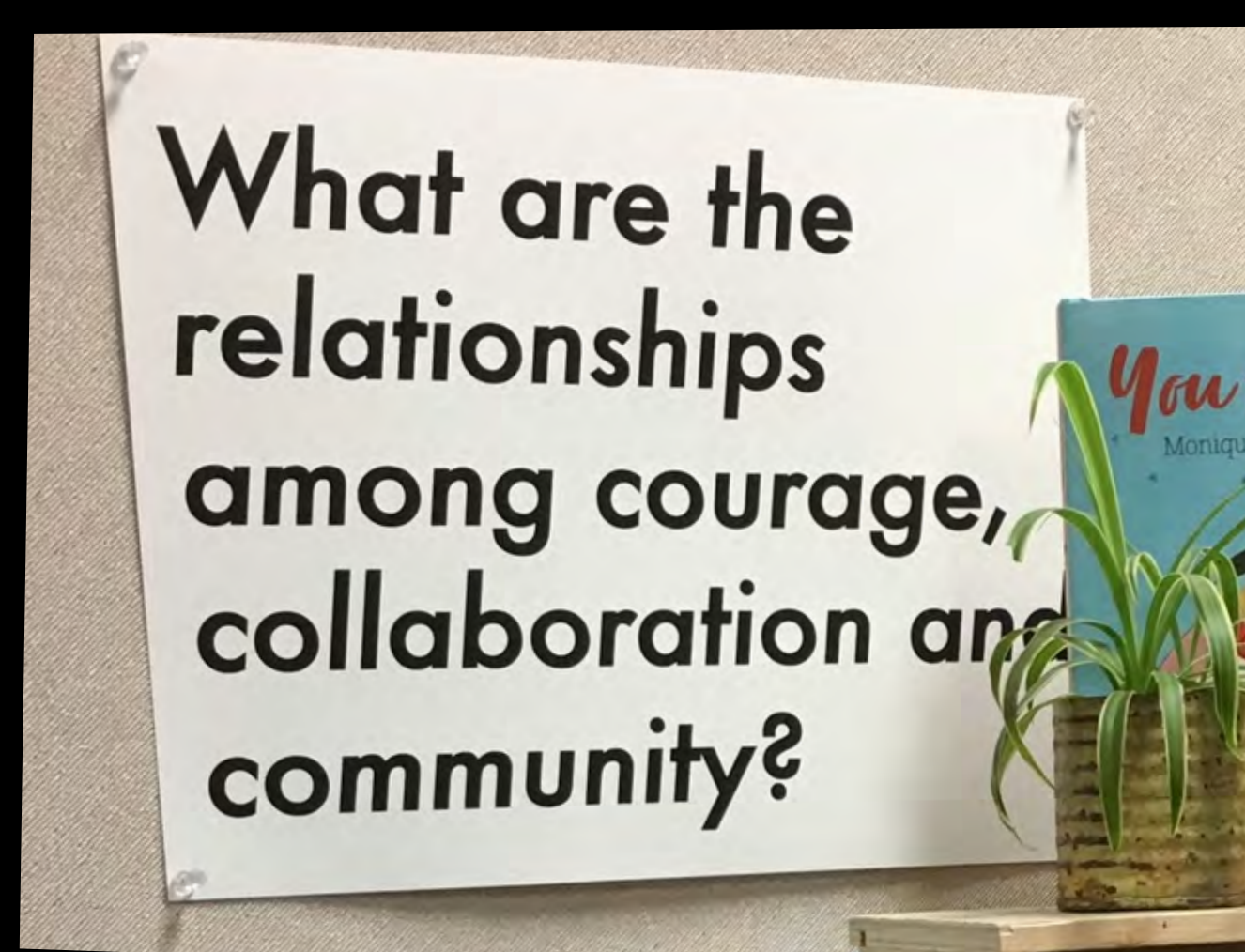
What stories wake up in your mind when you play with these animals?



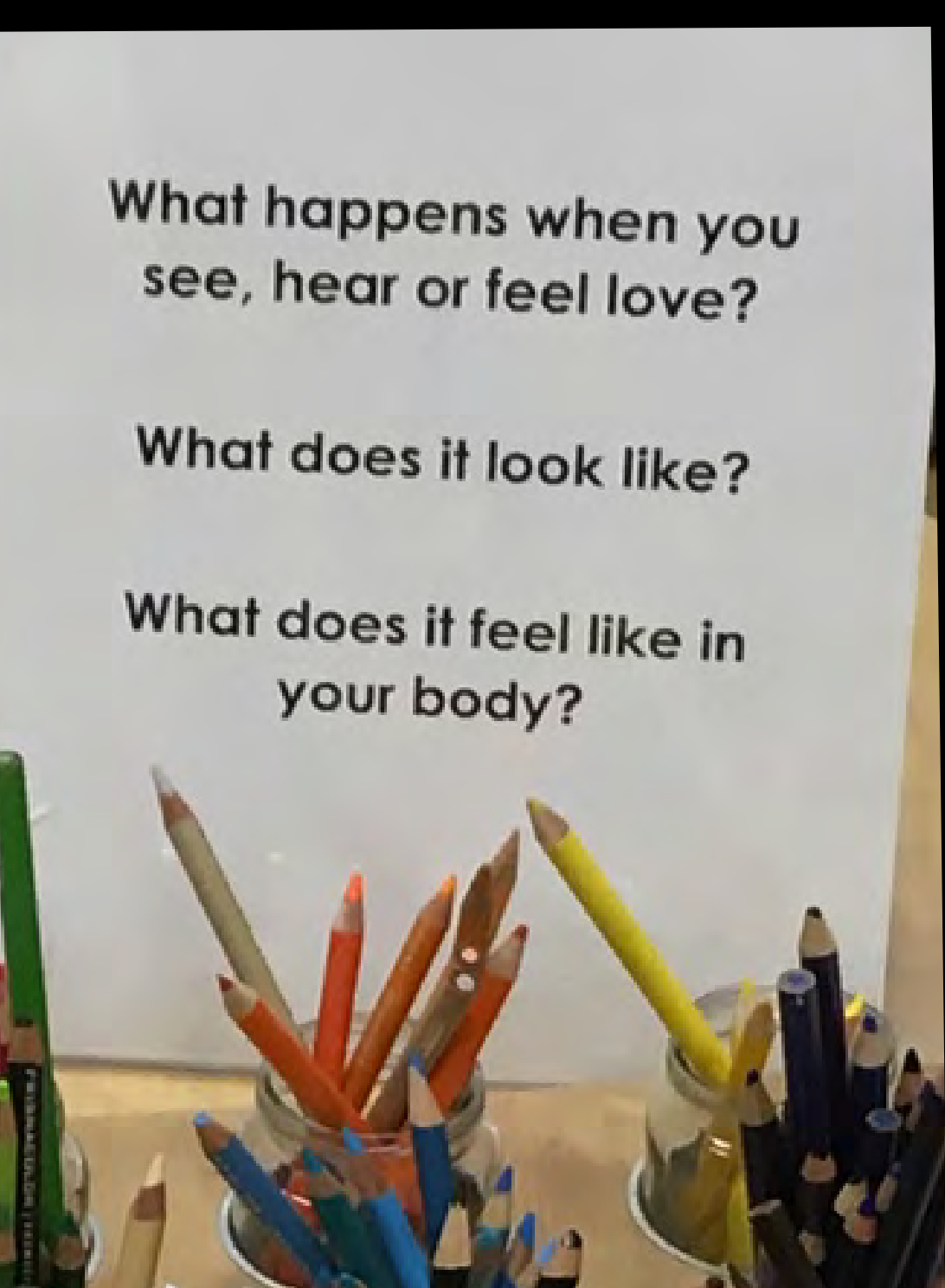
What can playing with animals teach us about ourselves?



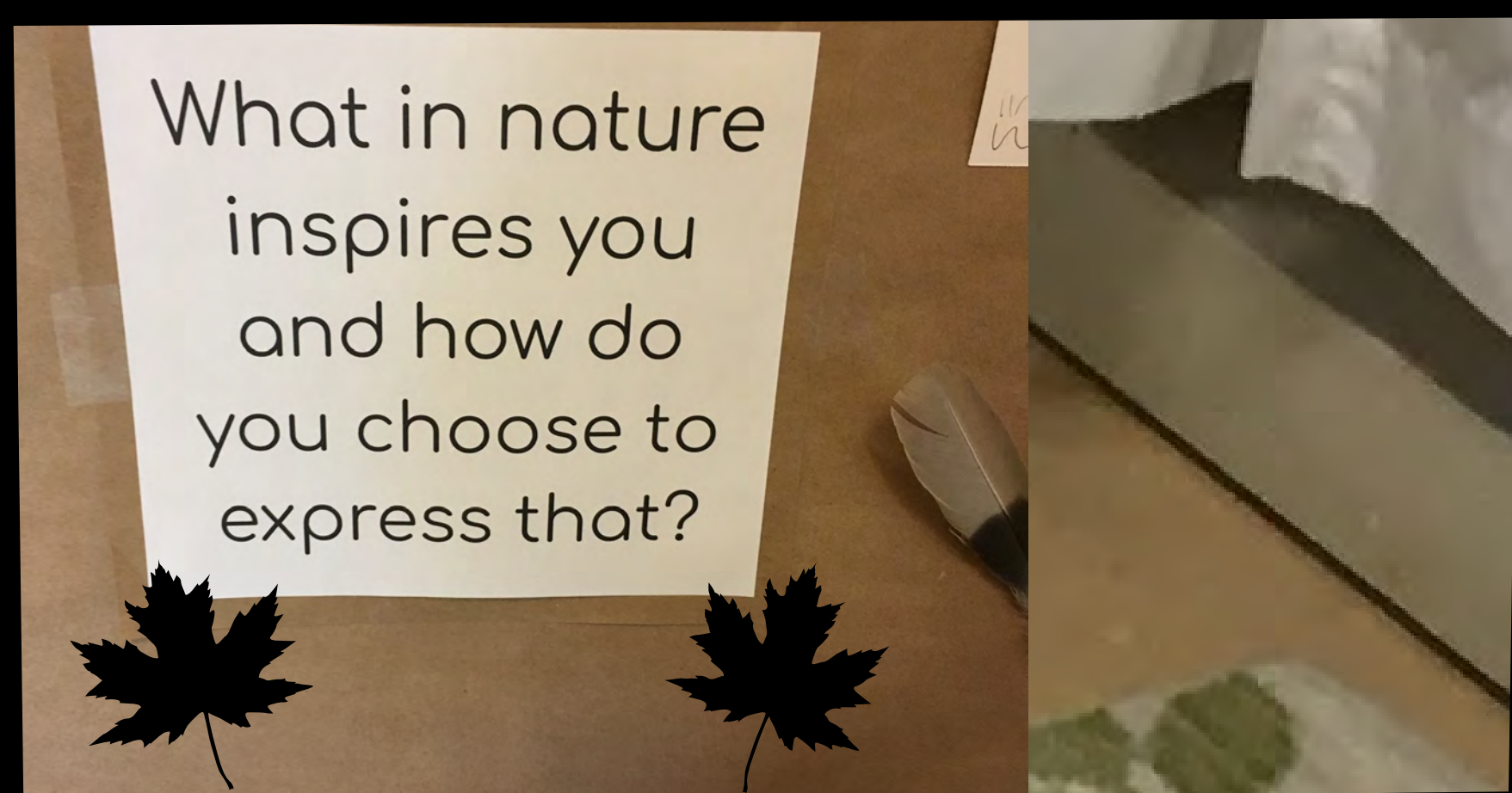
How are we connected to these animals?



What are the relationships among courage, collaboration and community?



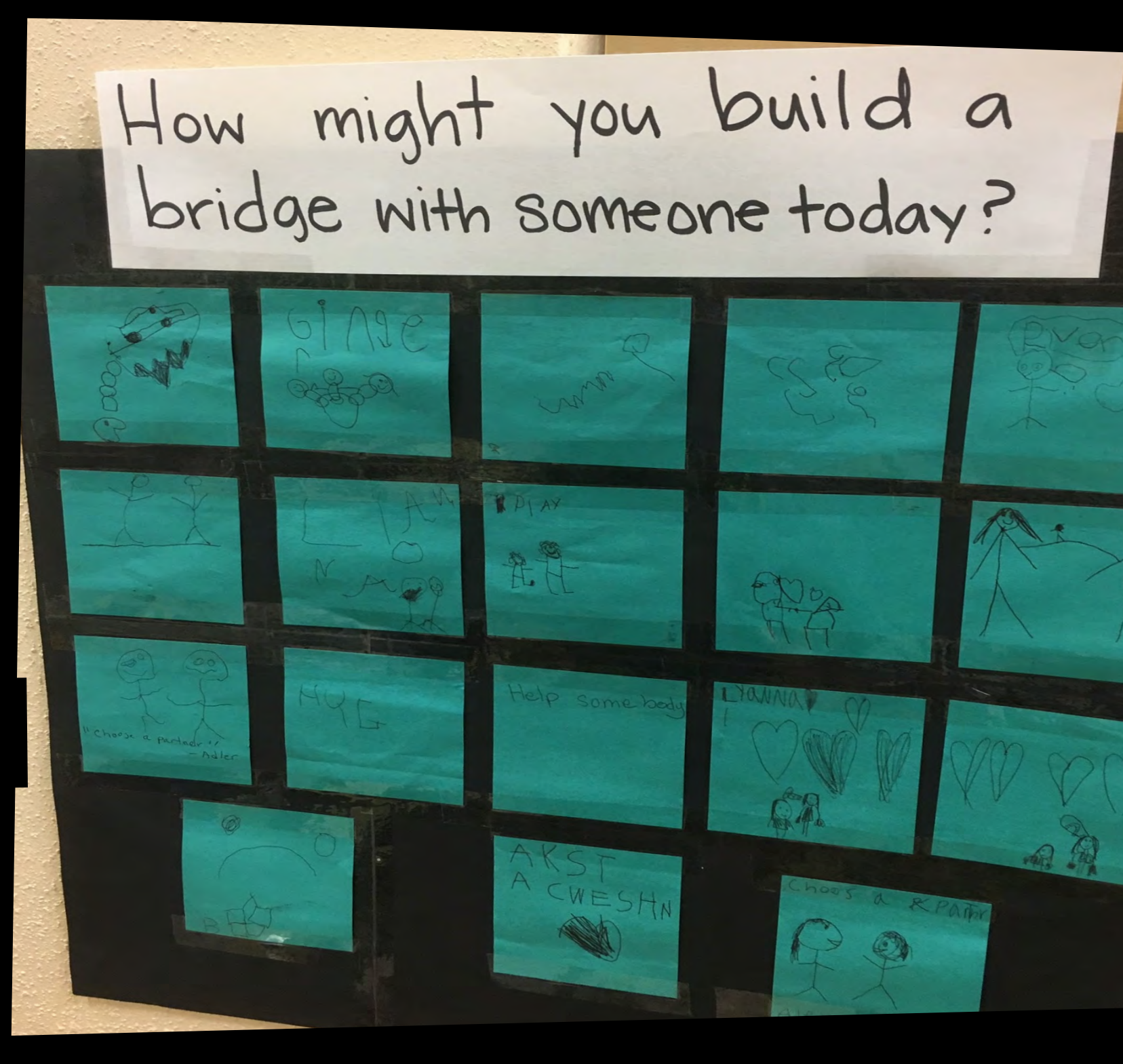
What happens when you see, hear or feel love?
What does it look like?
What does it feel like in your body?



What in nature inspires you and how do you choose to express that?



As we play together, what might we uncover about ourselves, each other, and our community as part of a living system?

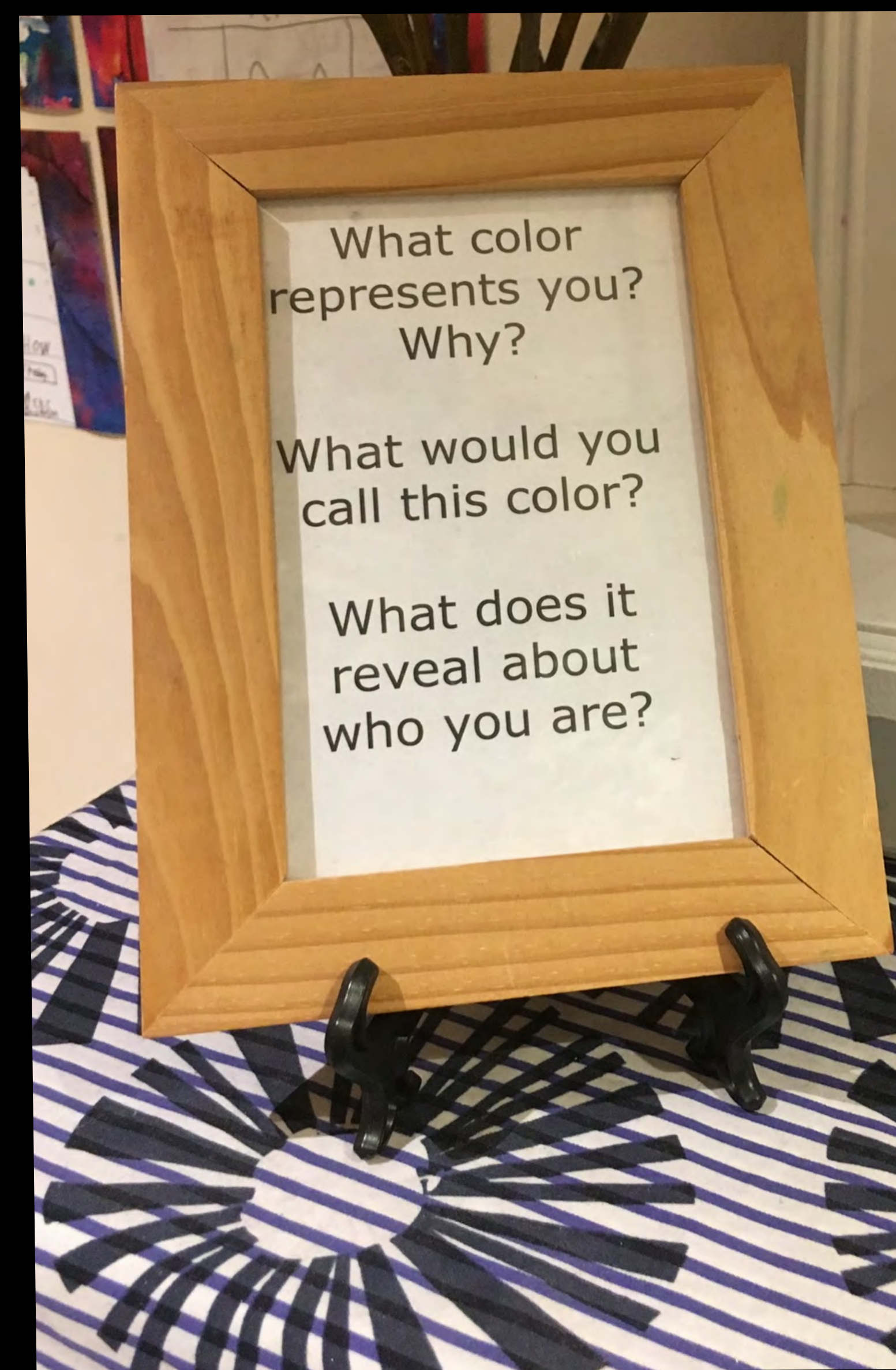


How might you build a bridge with someone today?

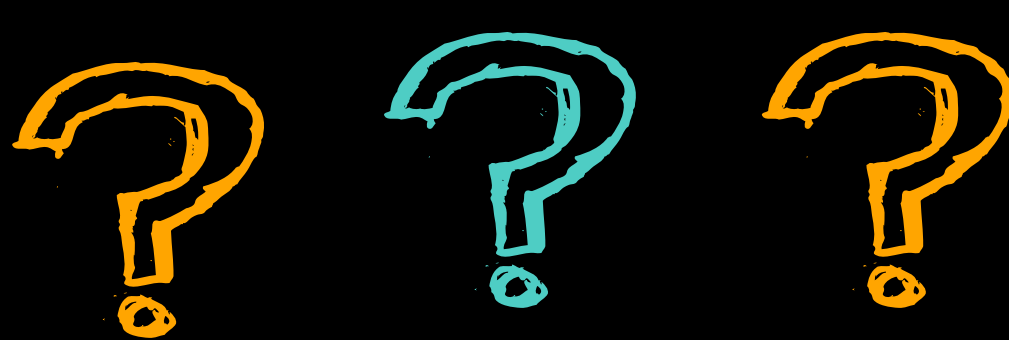
How can we communicate our mathematical conjectures, discoveries, and big ideas through math posters?



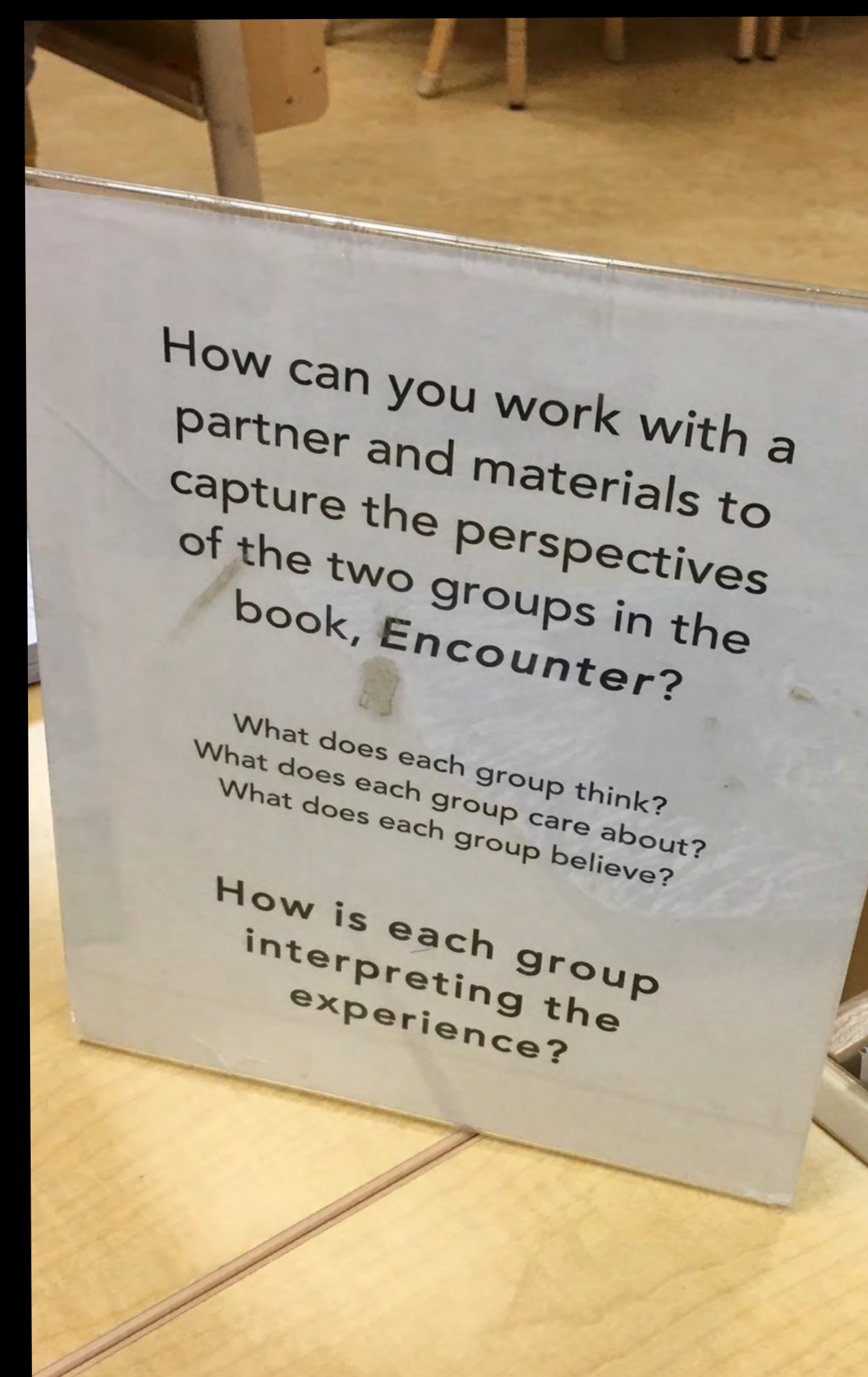
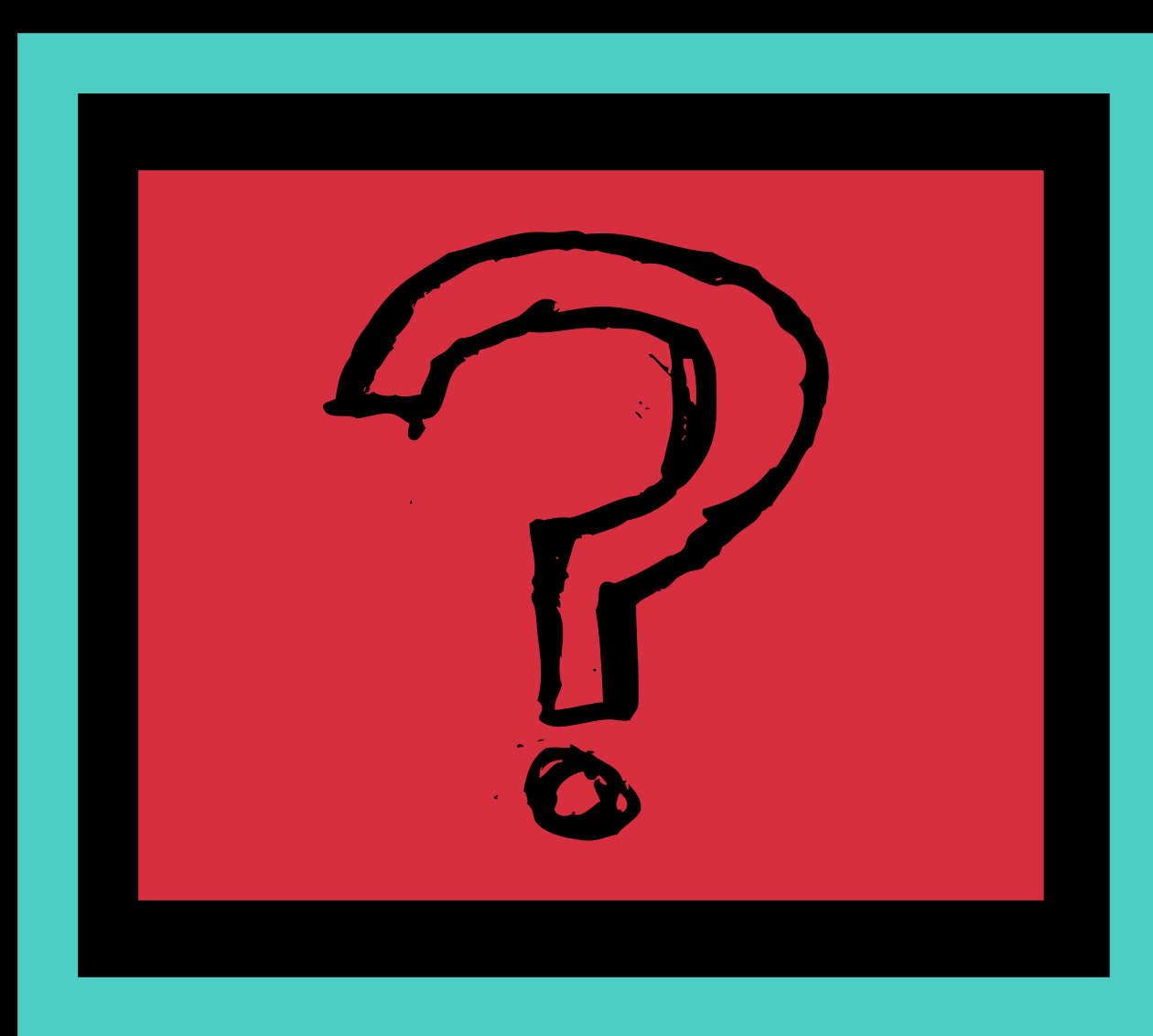
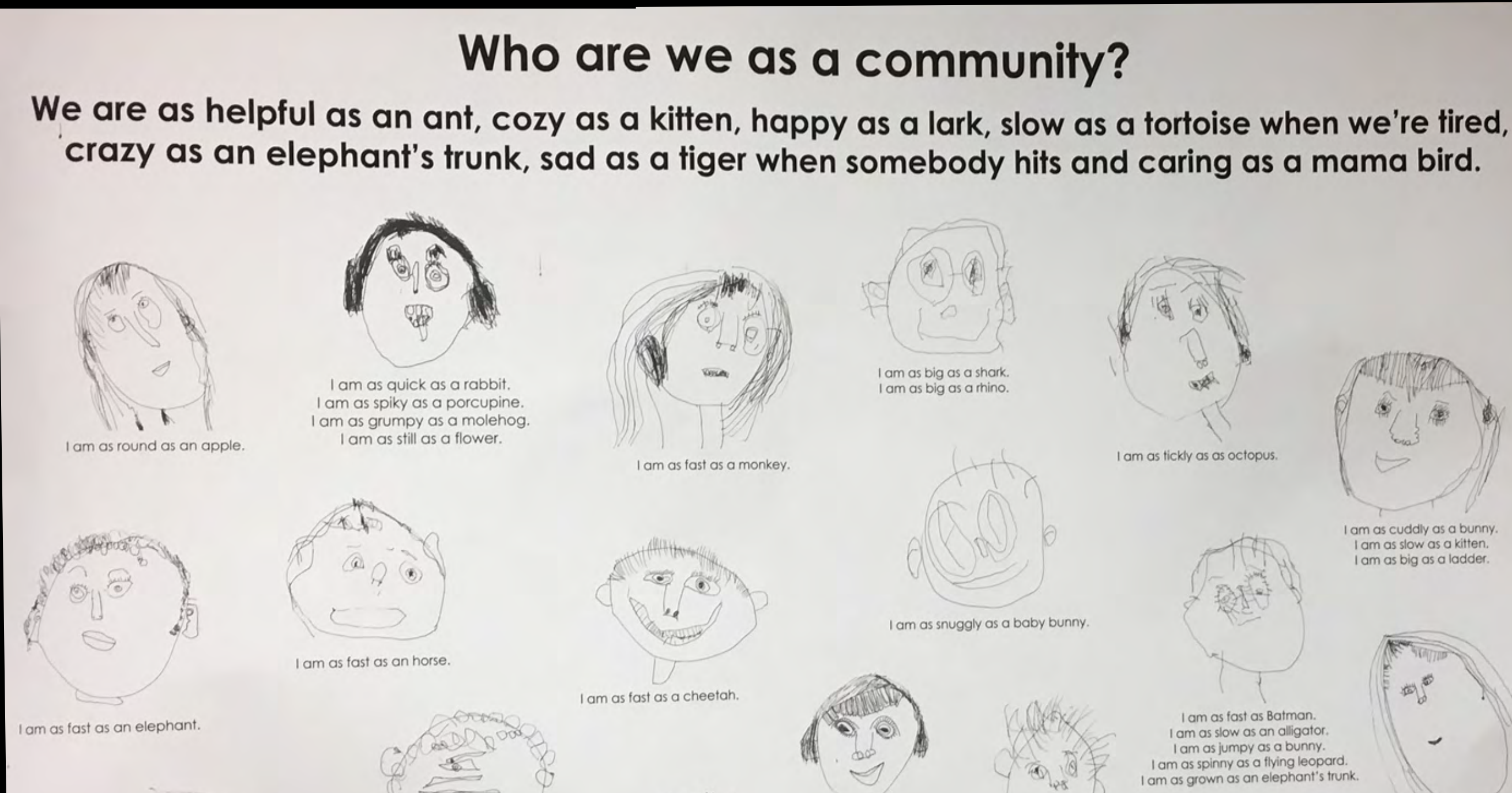
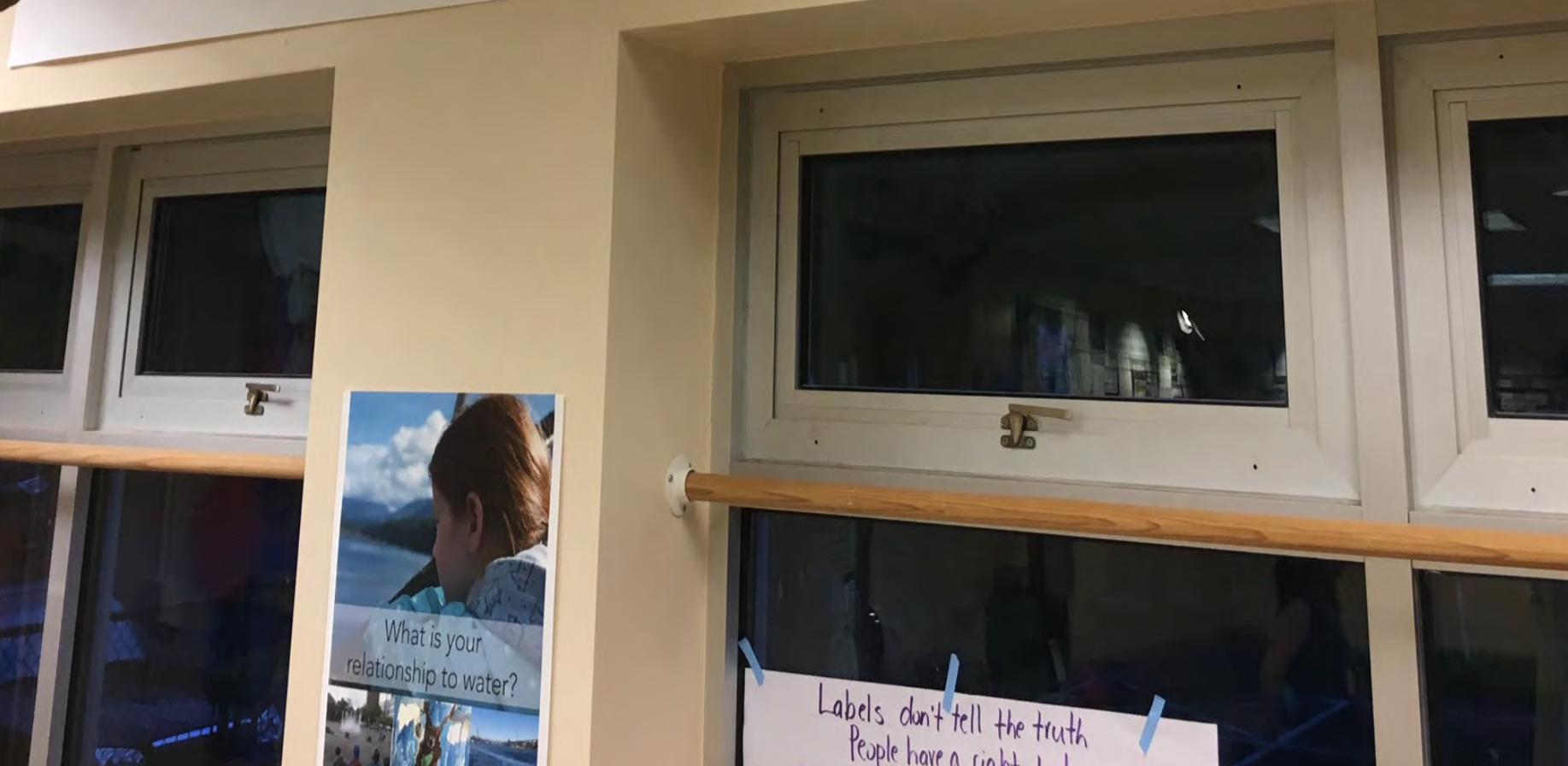
What might children uncover about the heart of democracy while playing with the arts and each other?



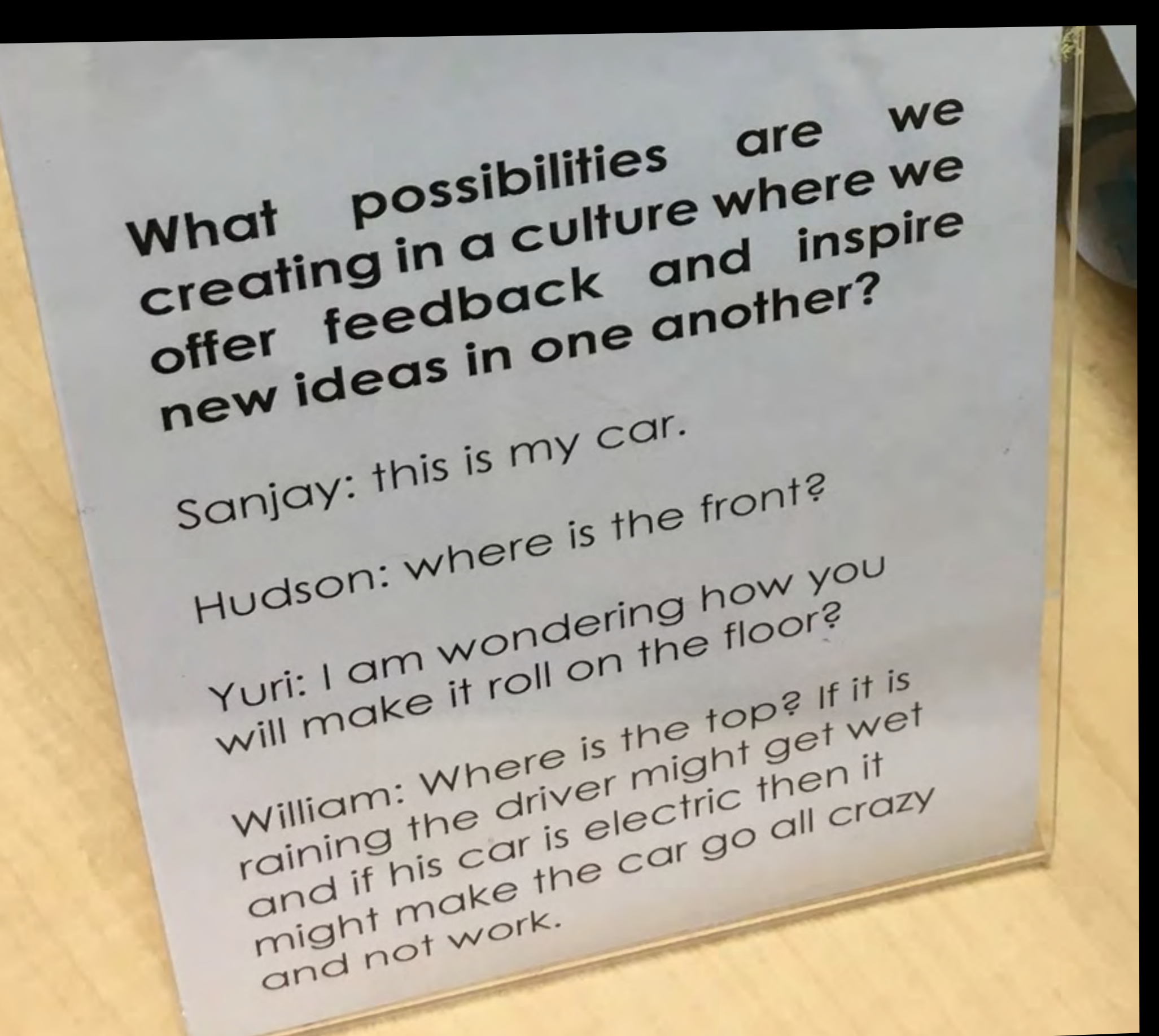
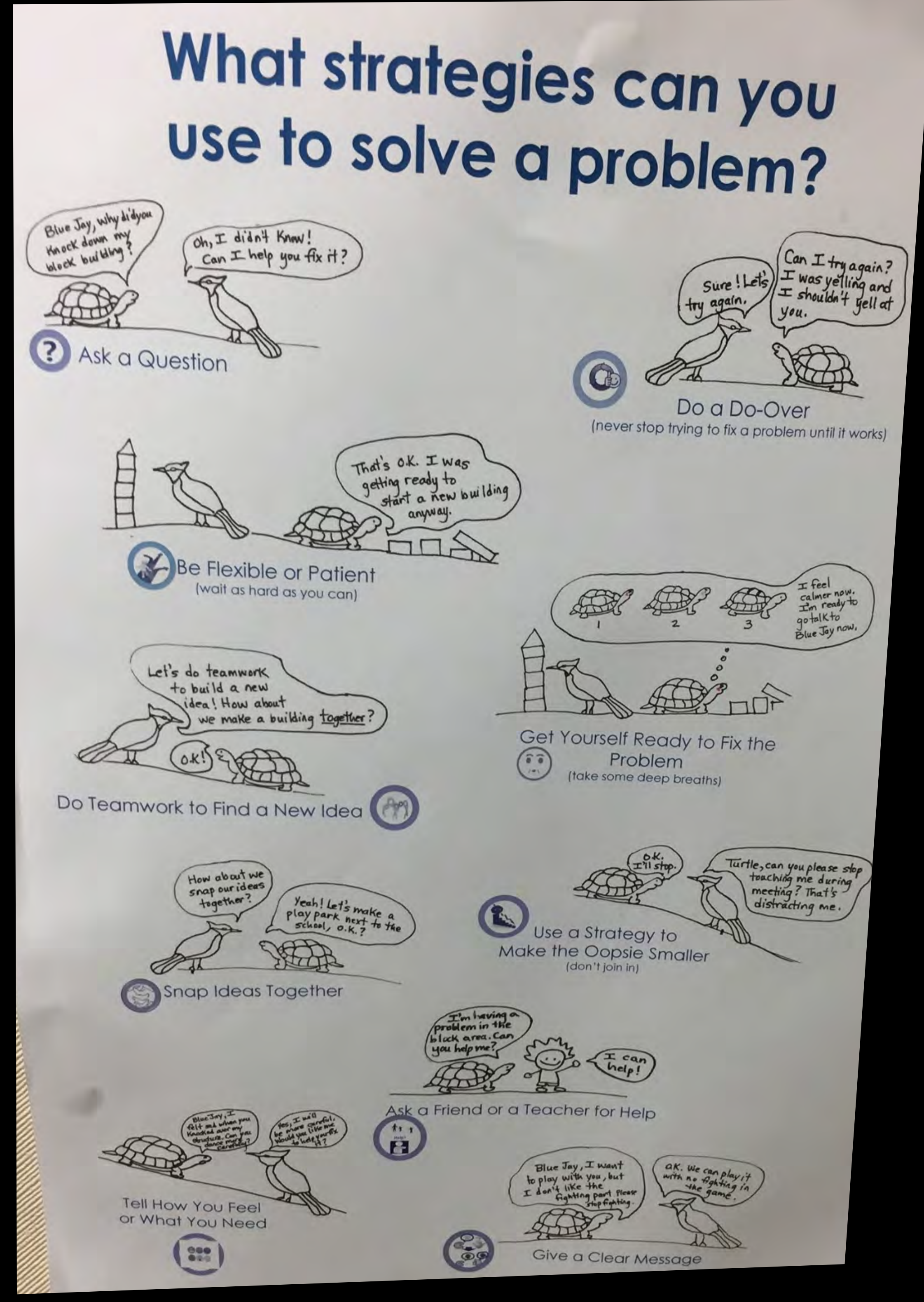
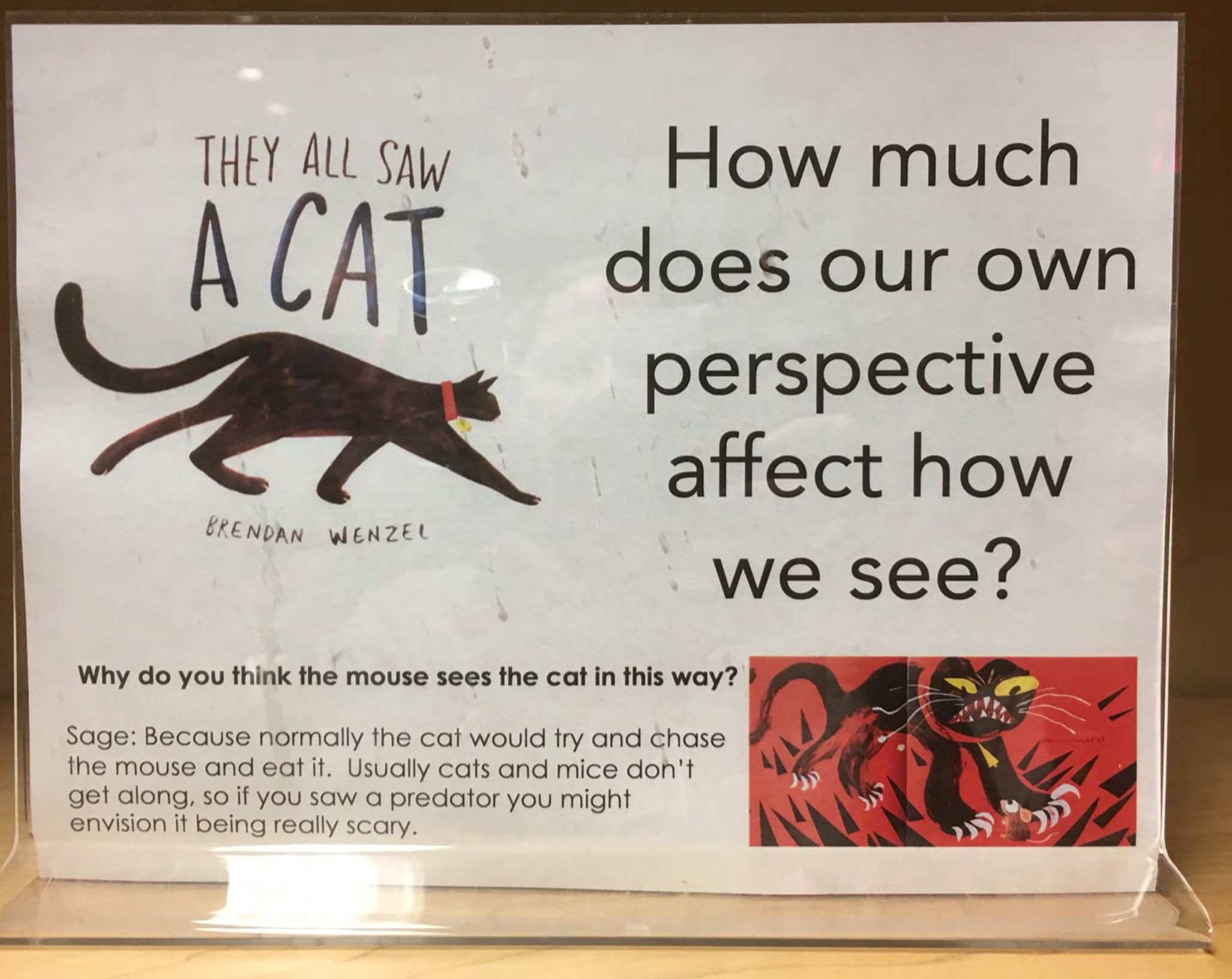
What questions, puzzles, and tangles will we discover and explore this year?

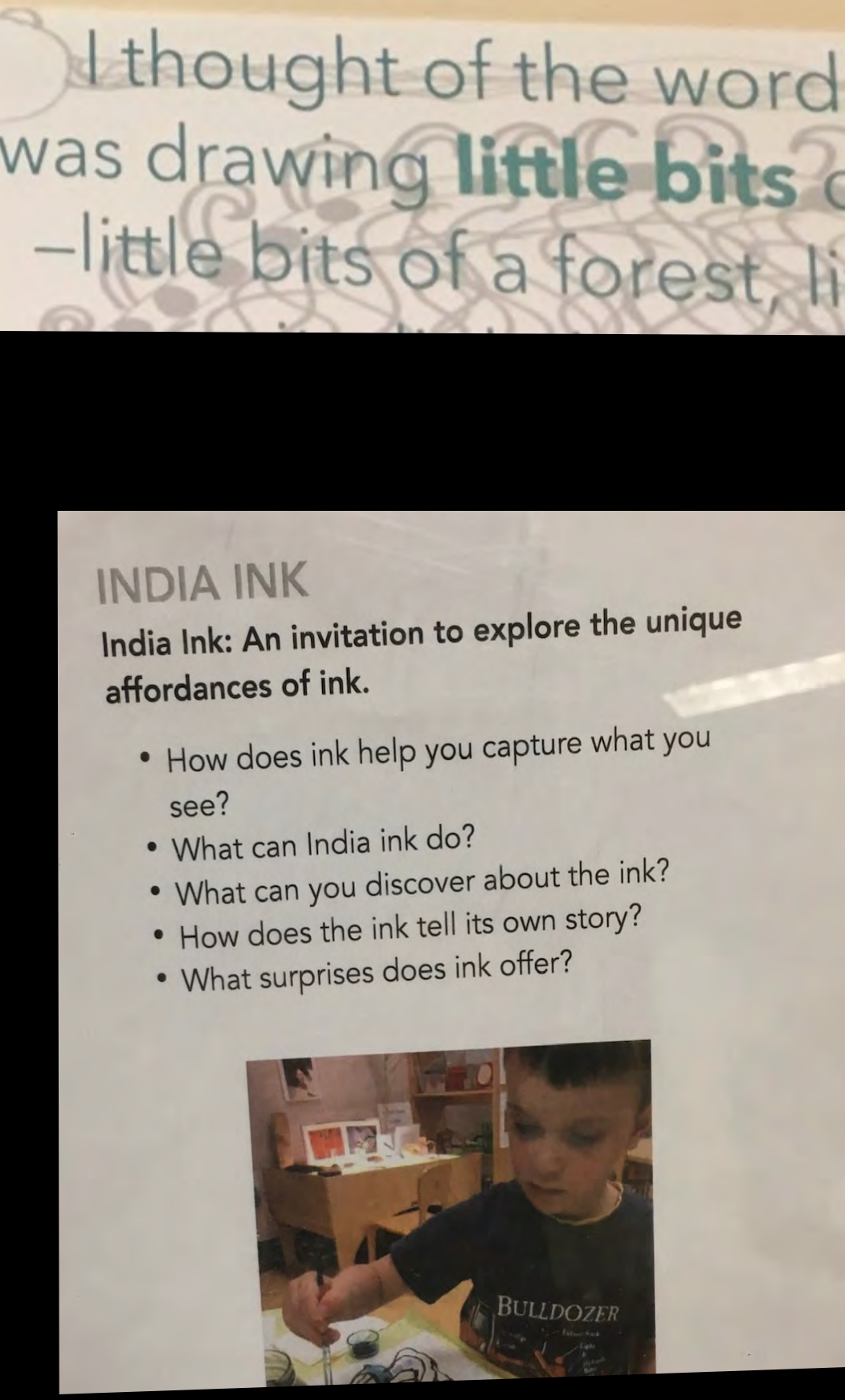
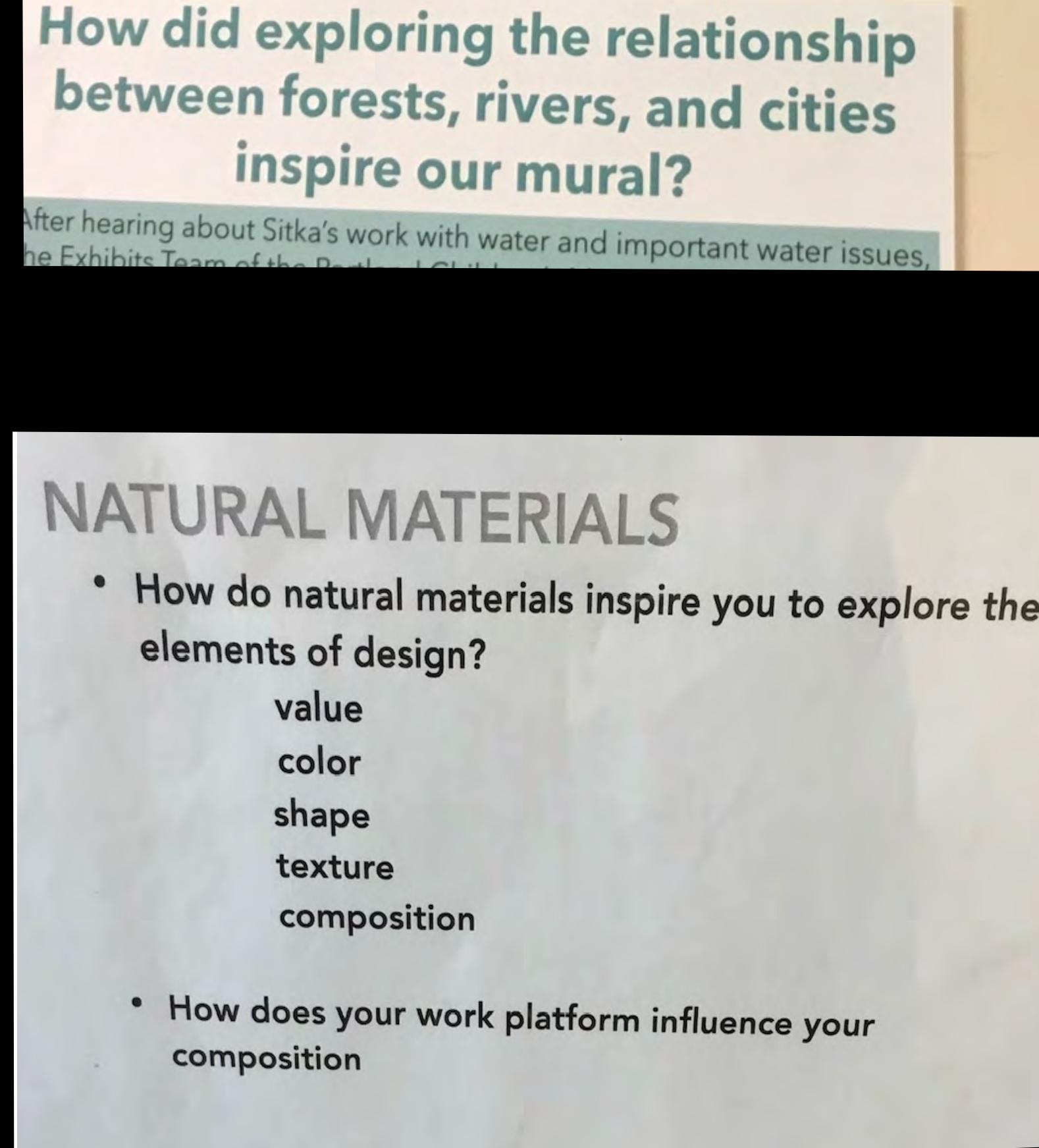
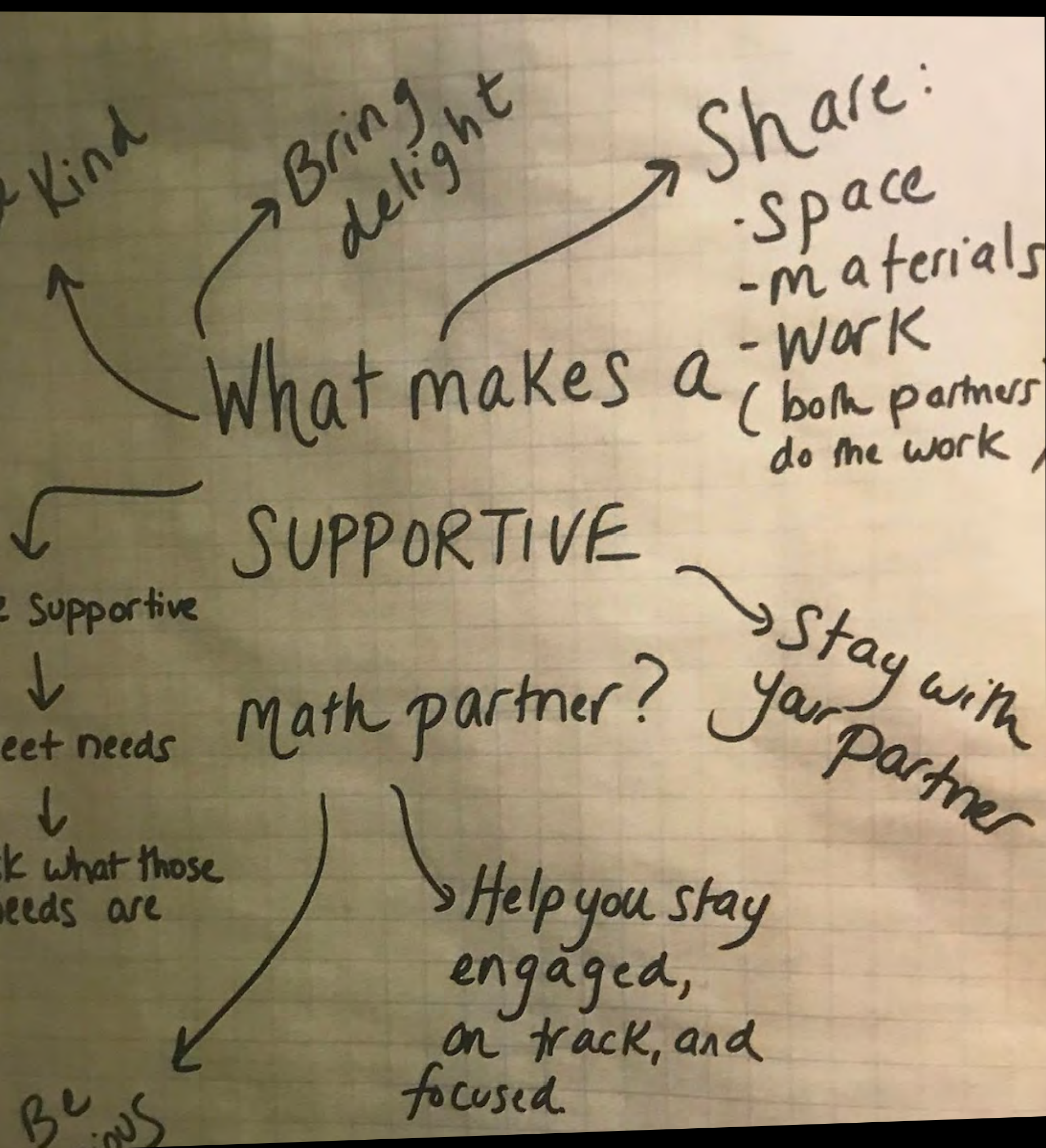
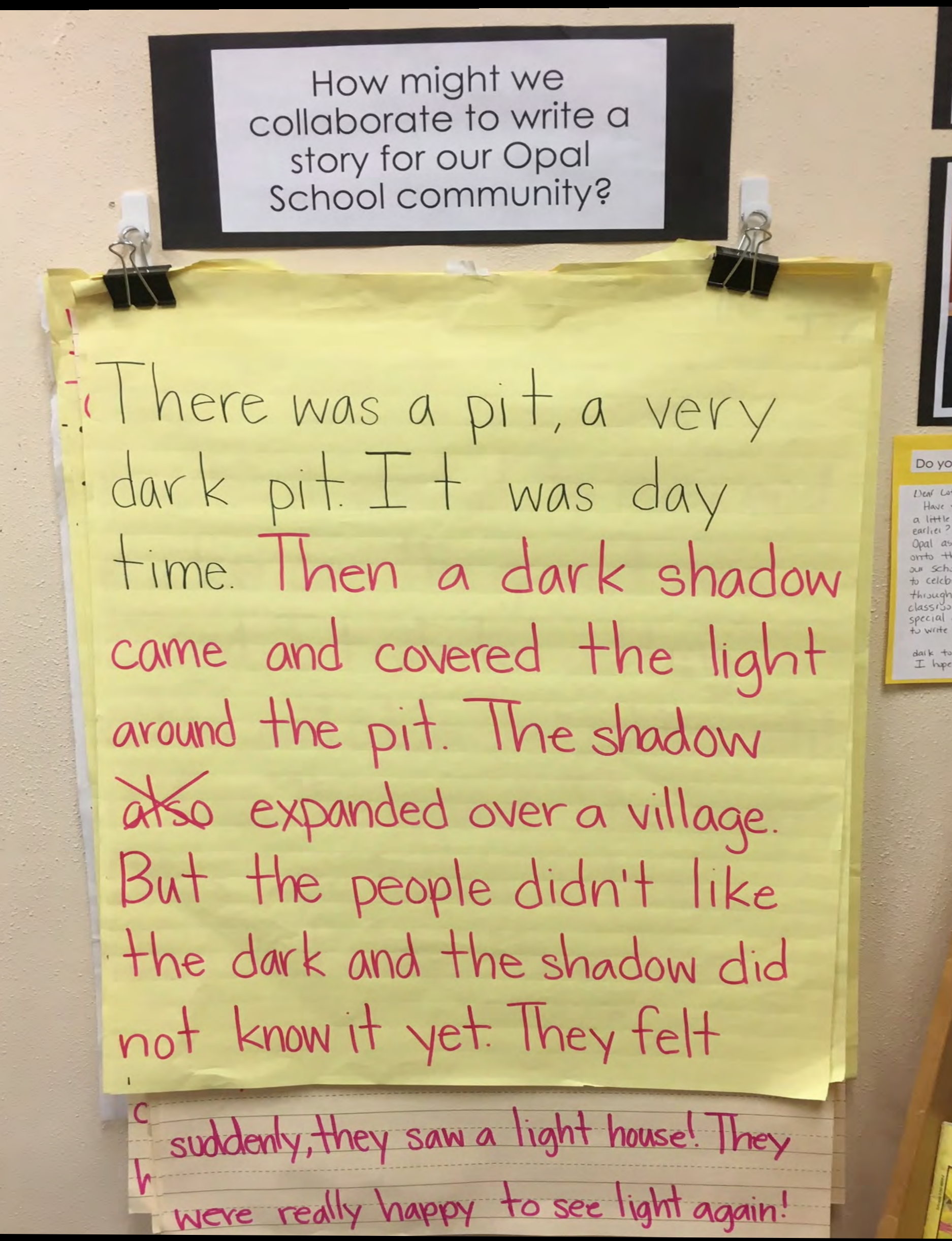
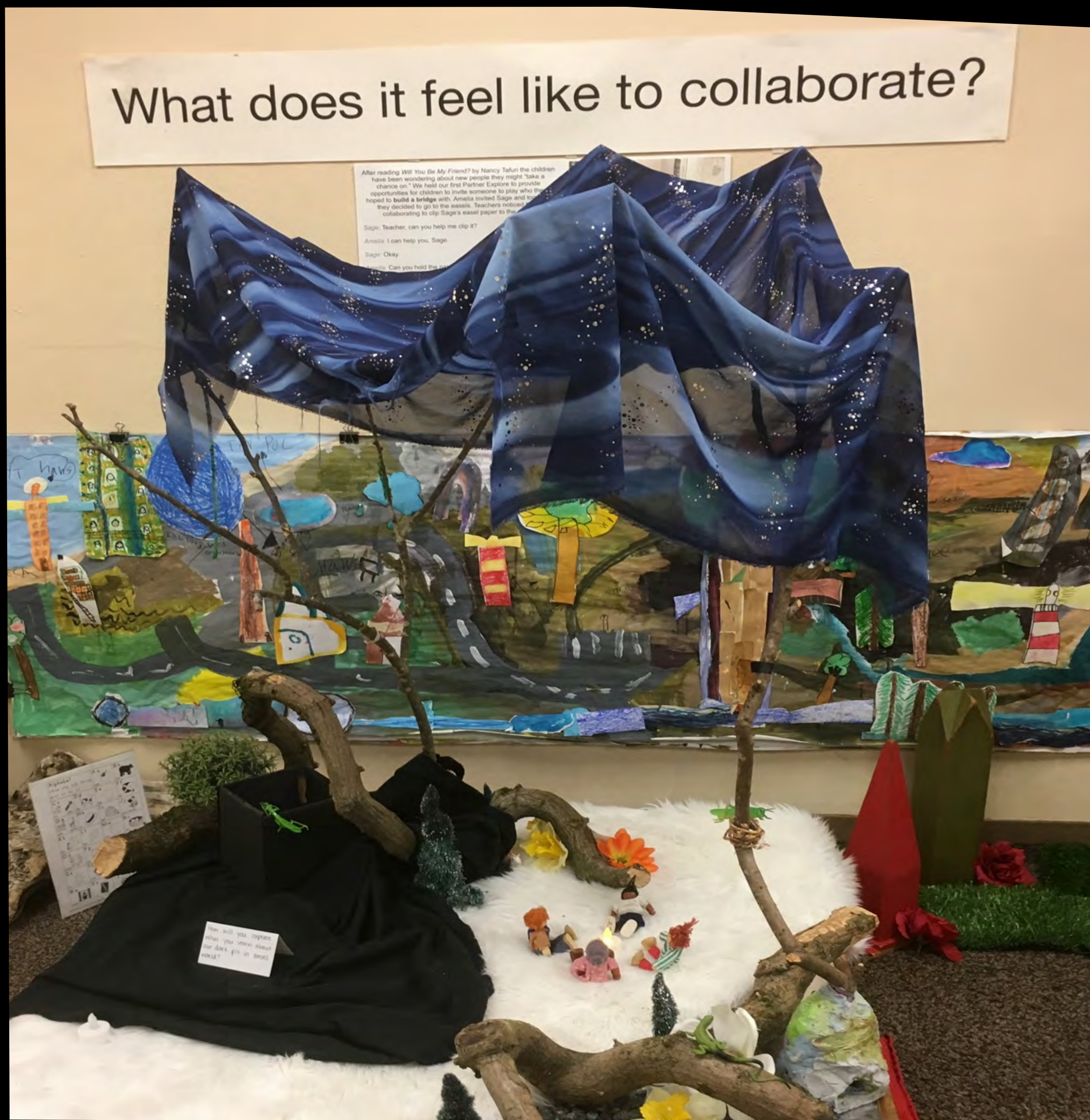
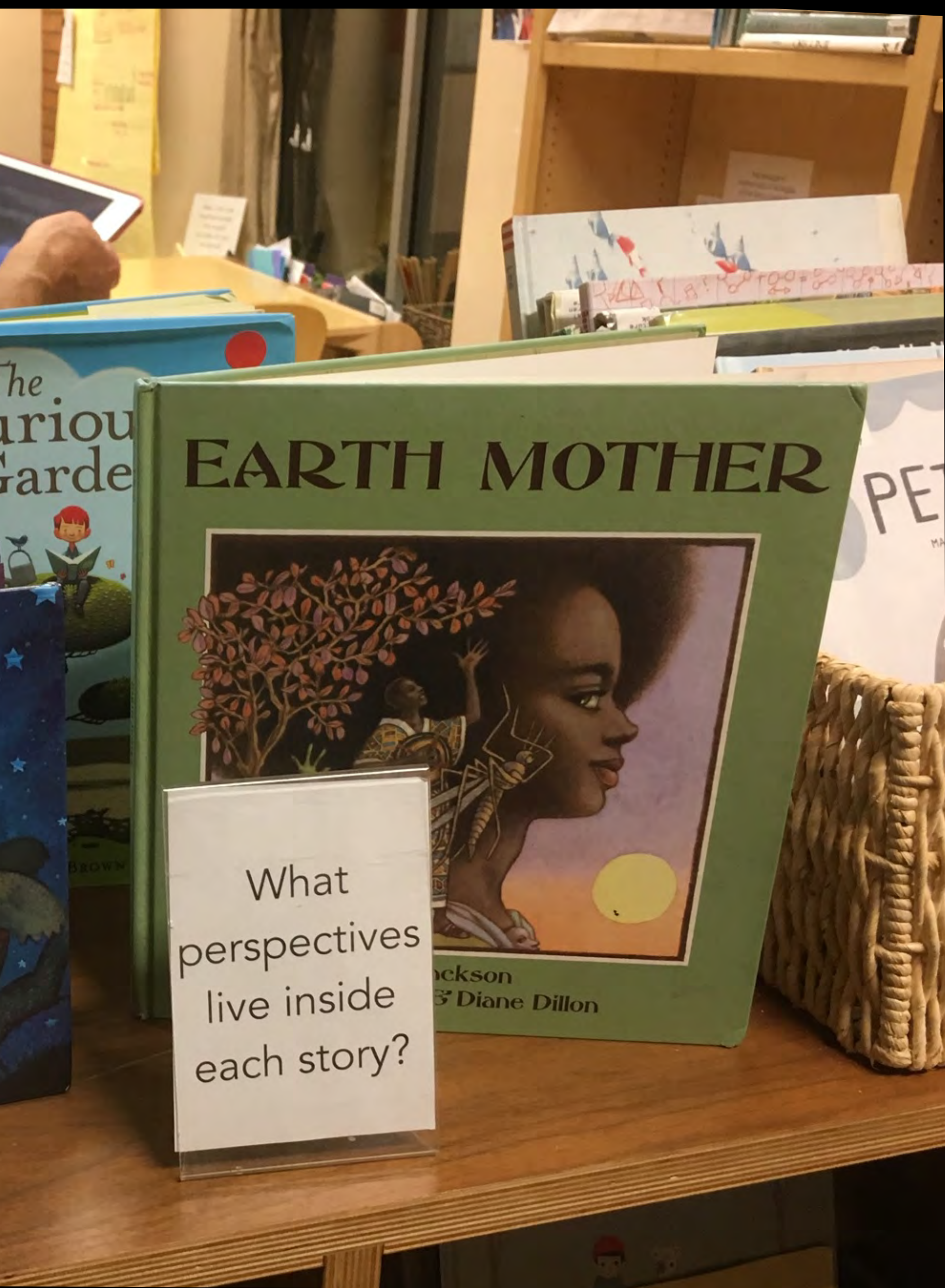
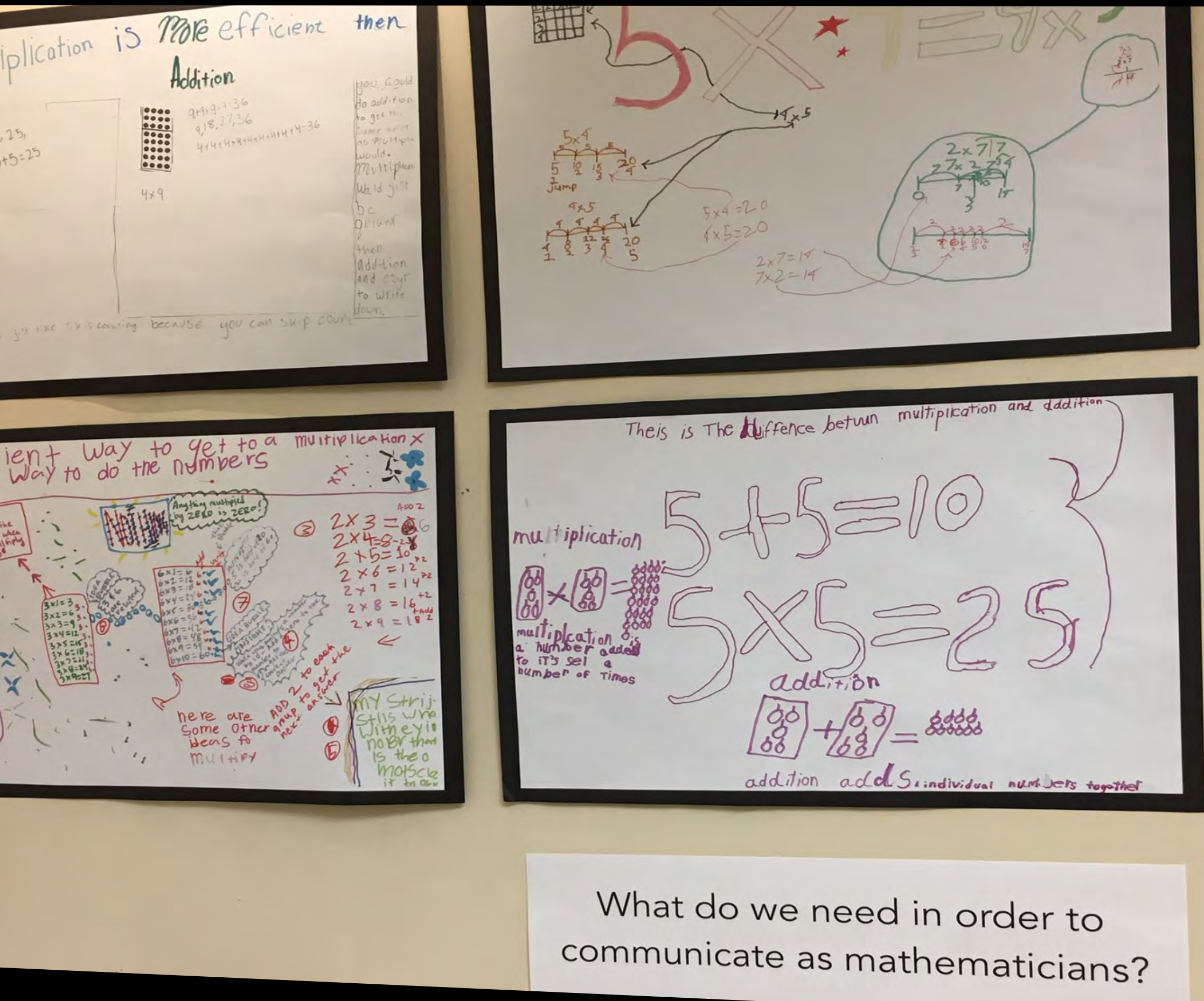
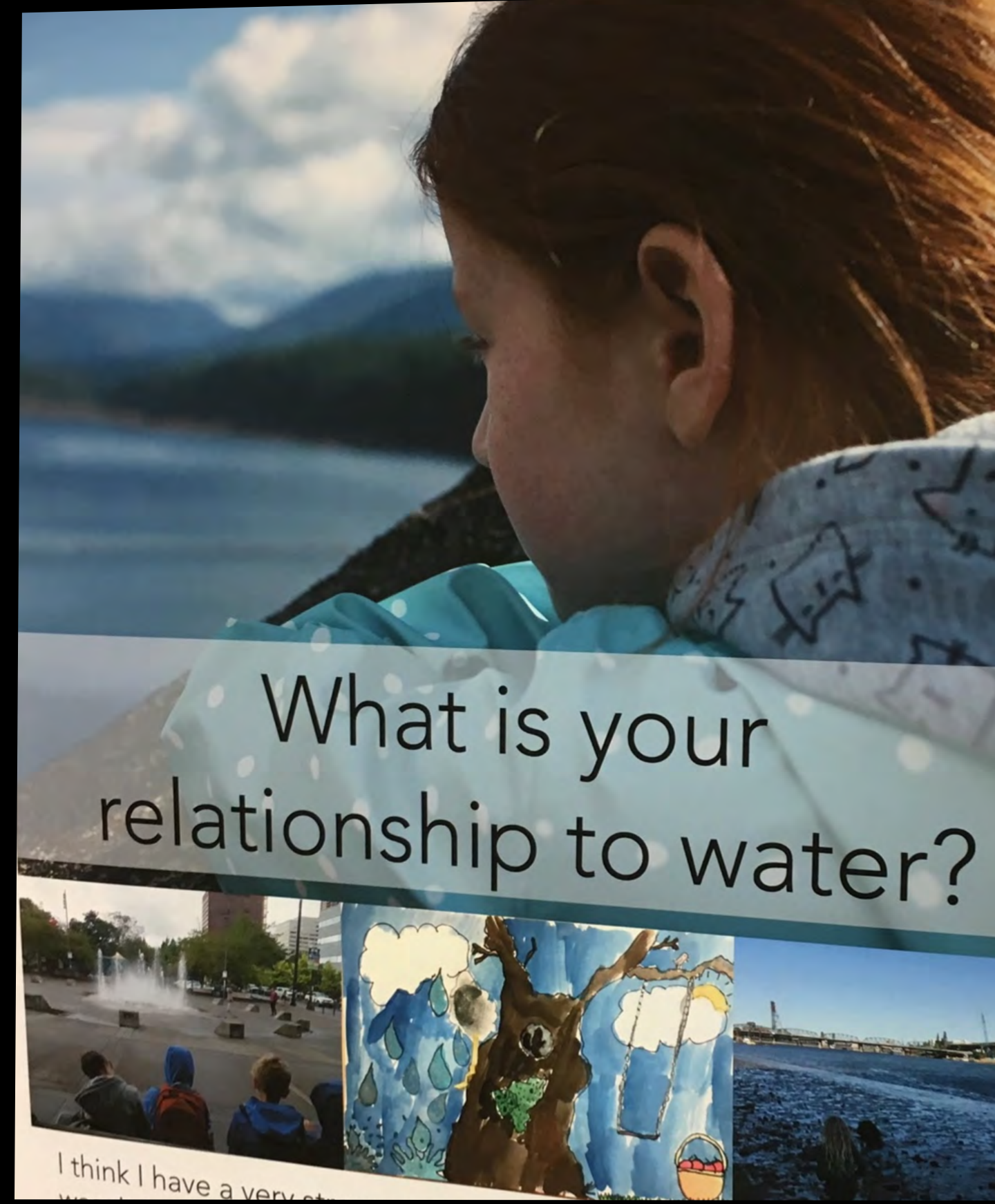
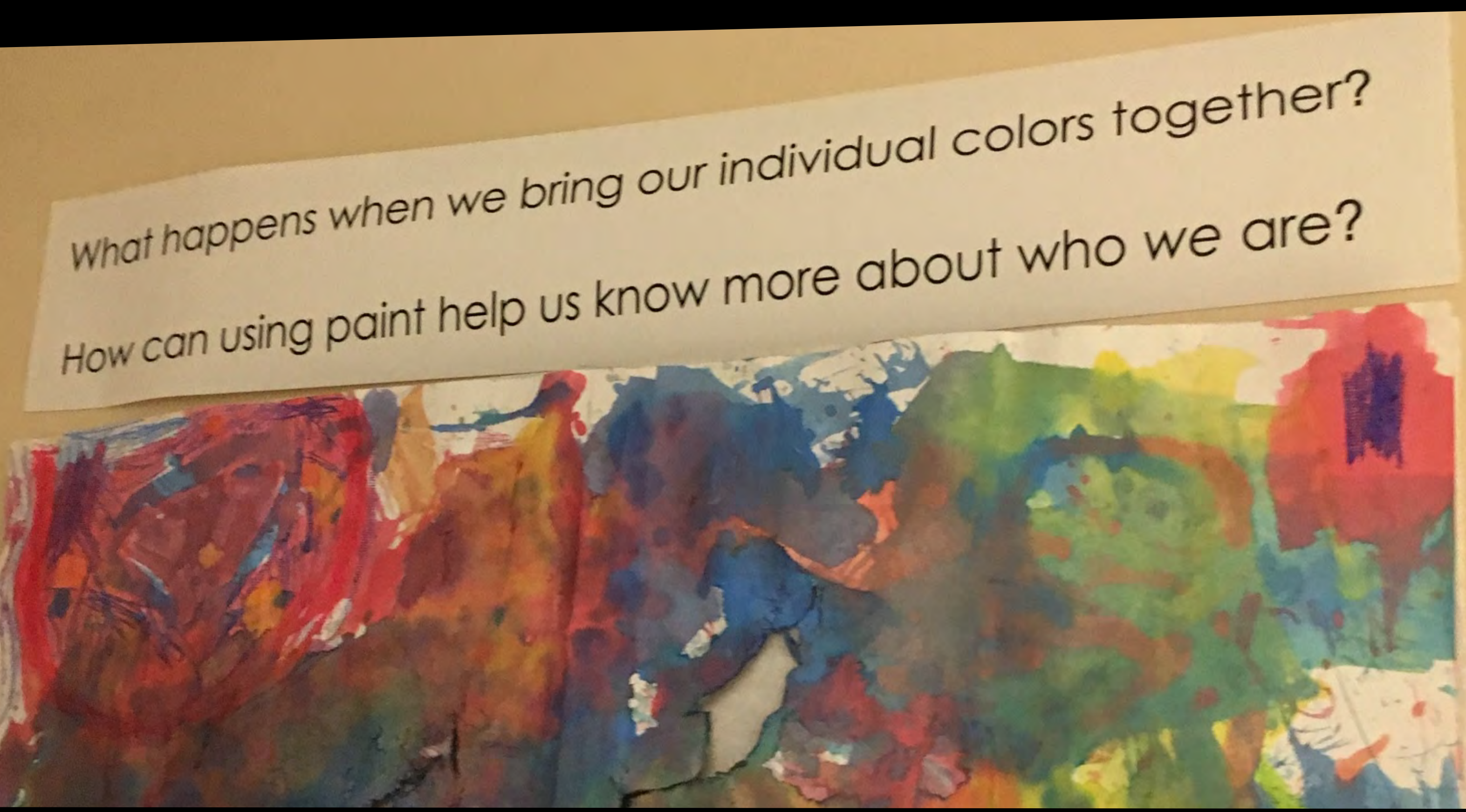


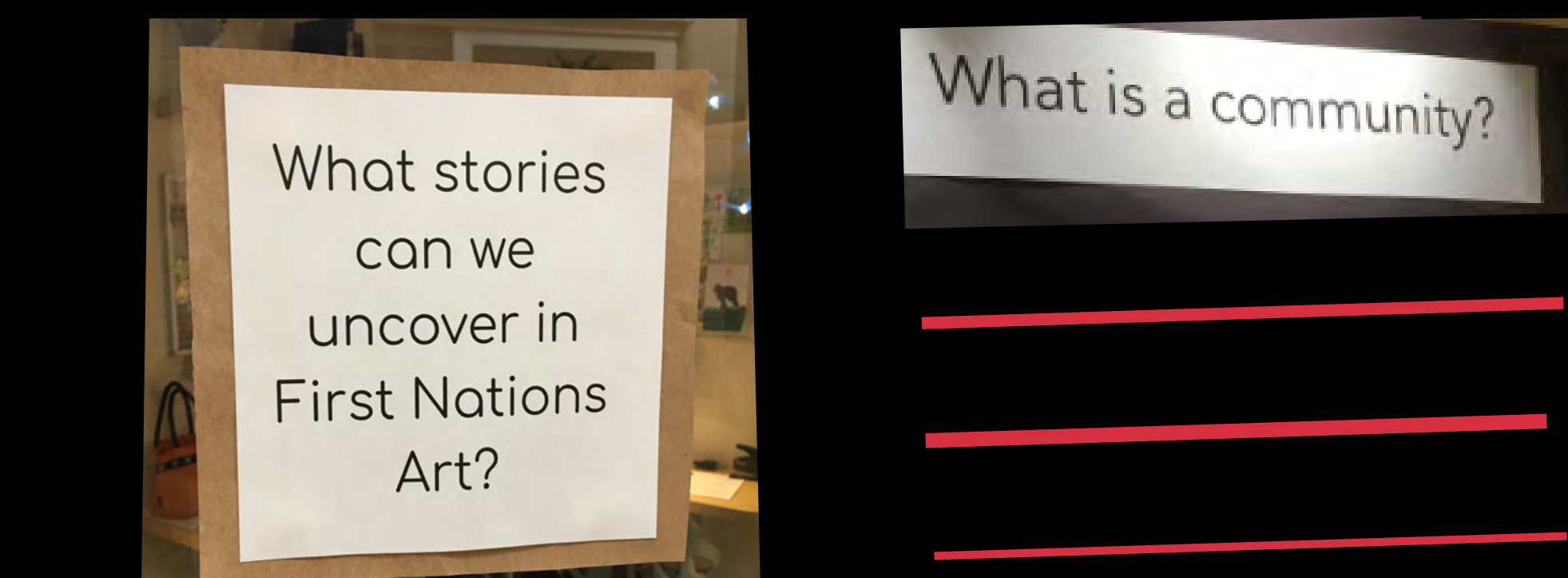
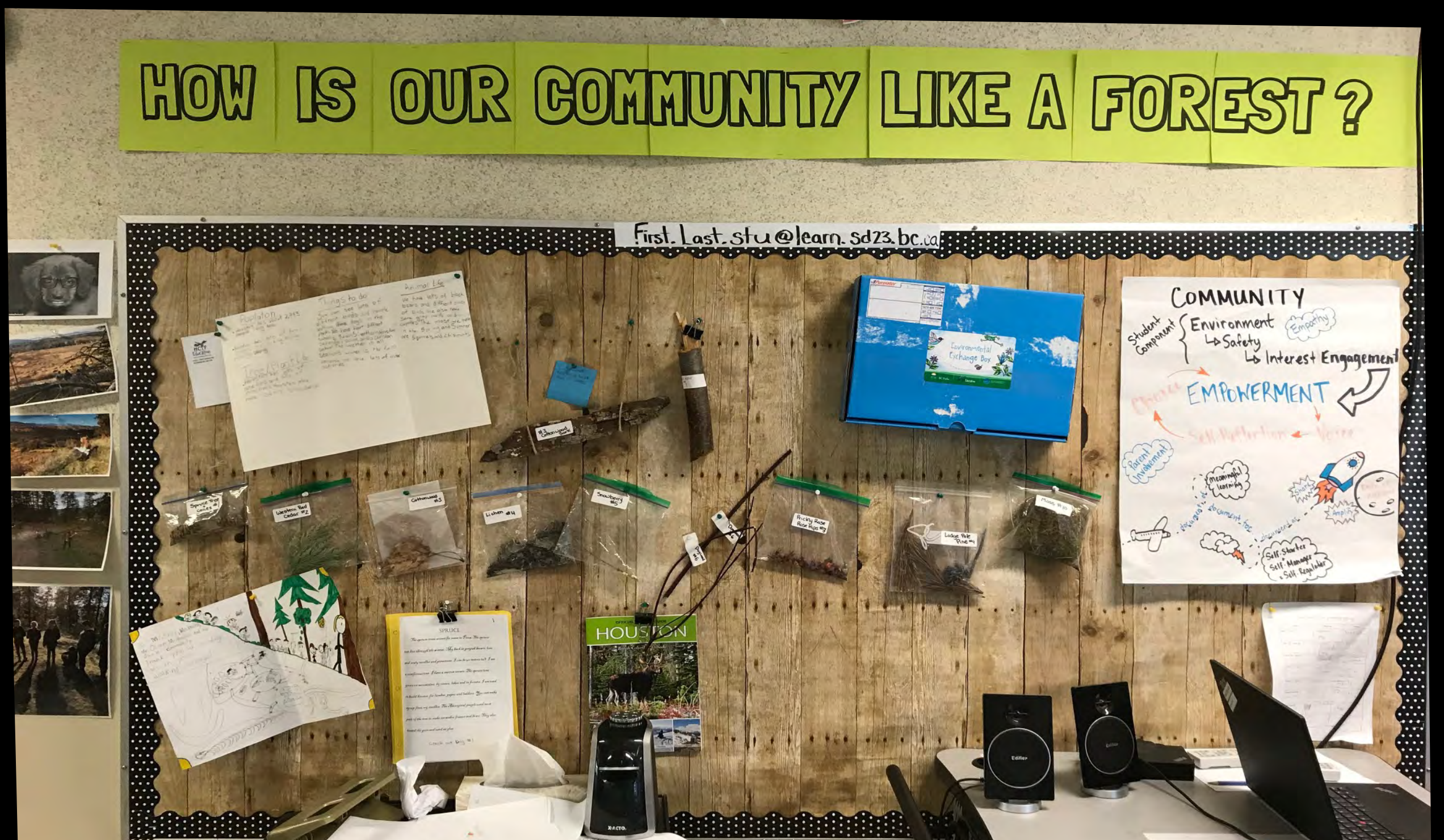
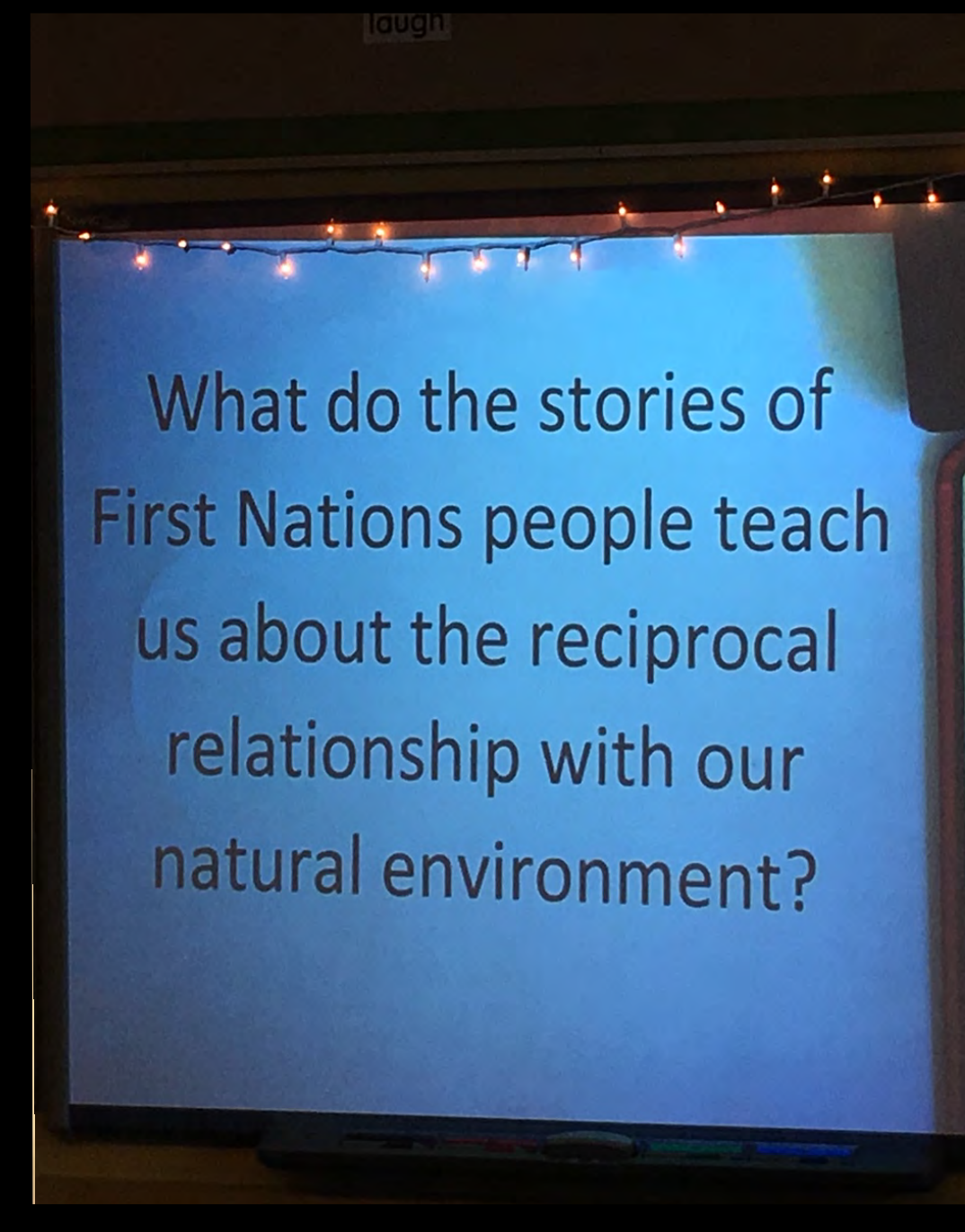
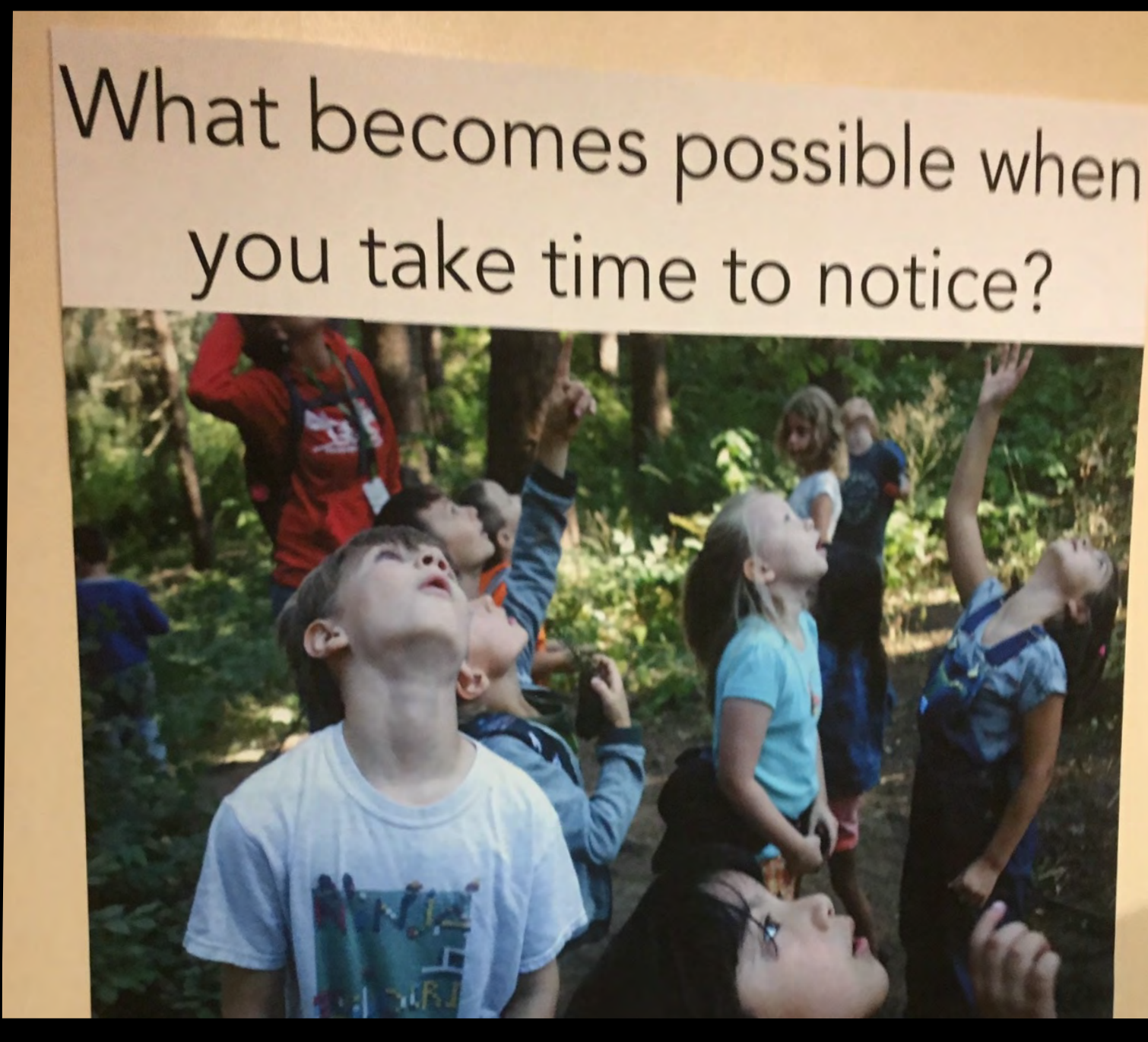
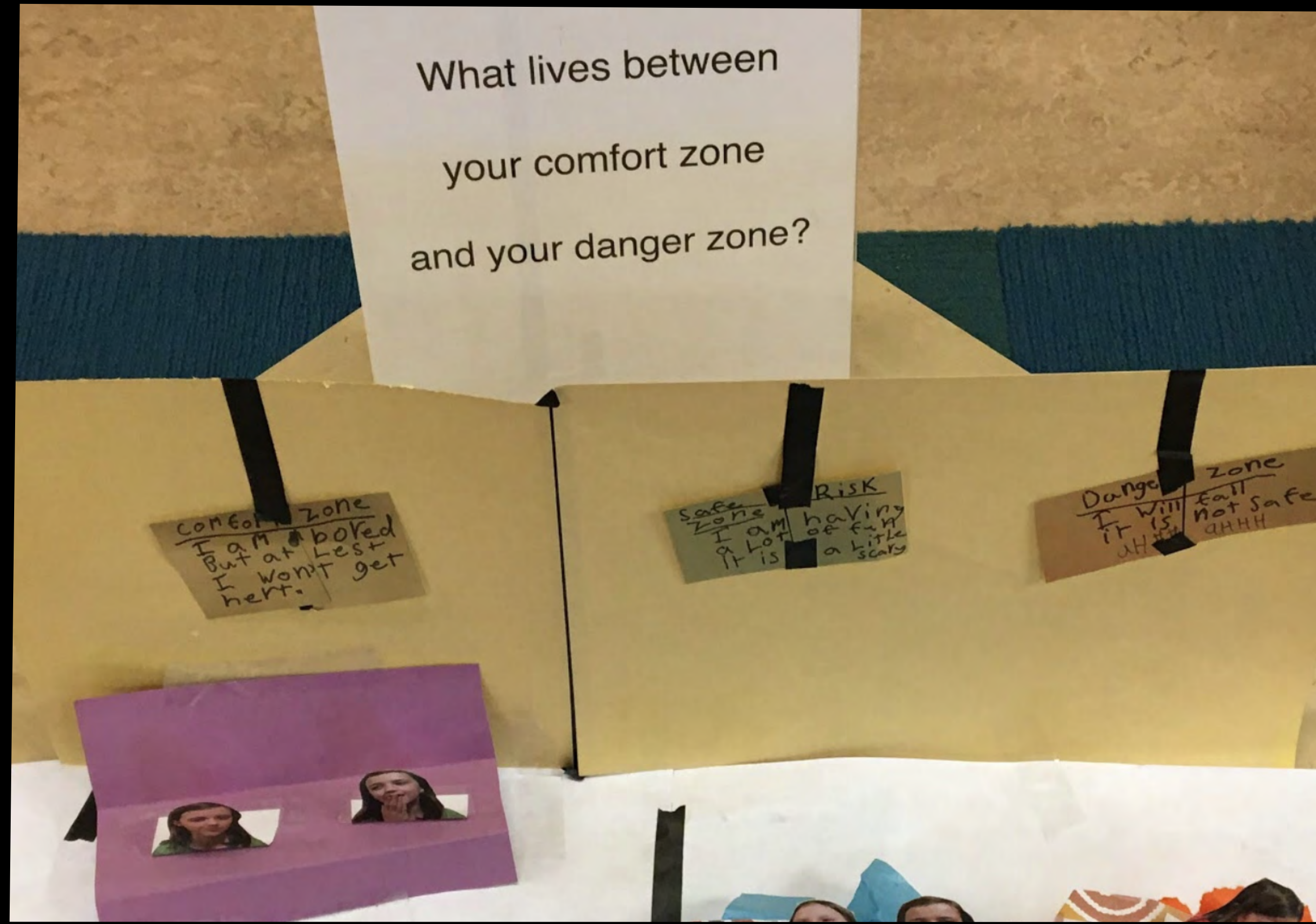
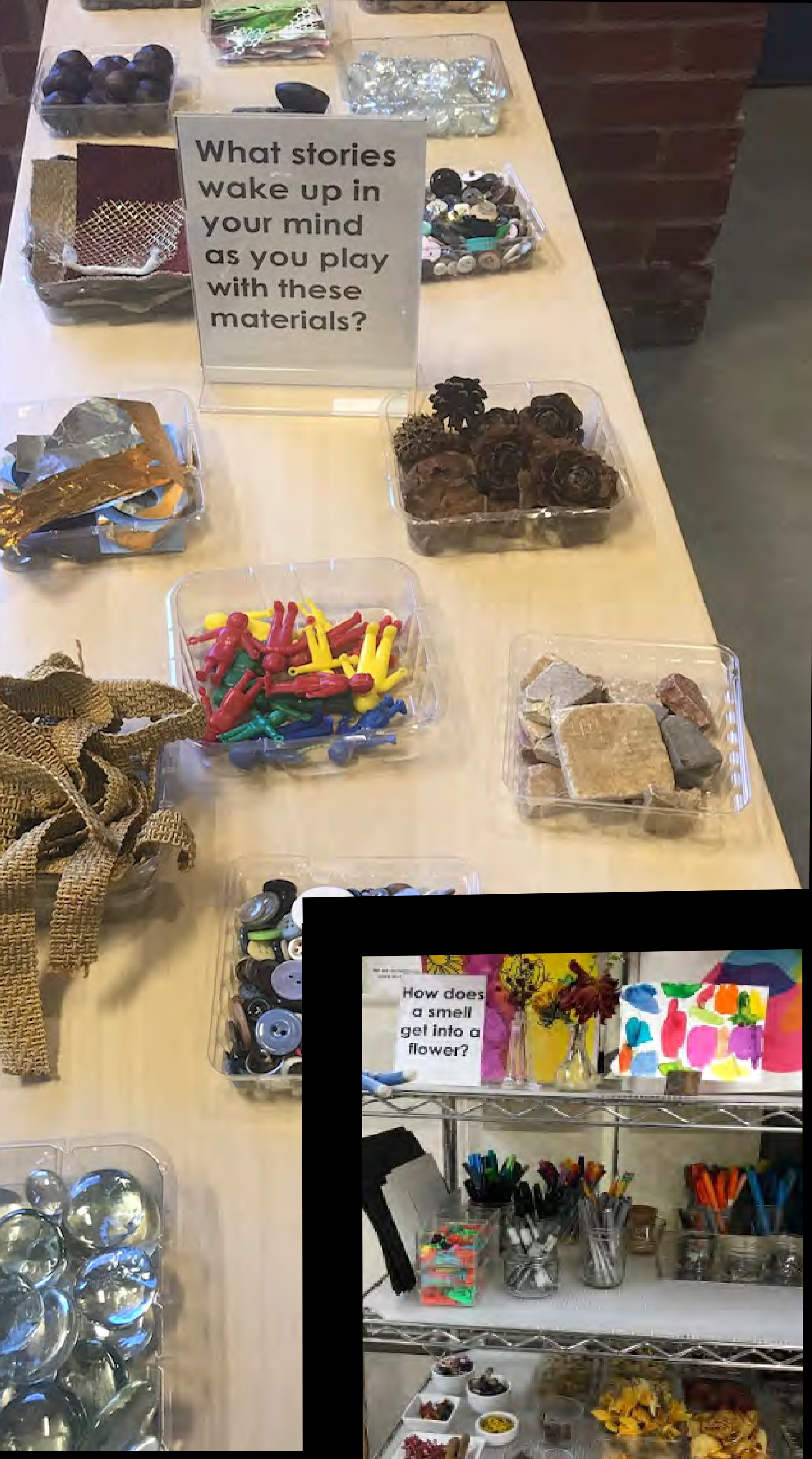
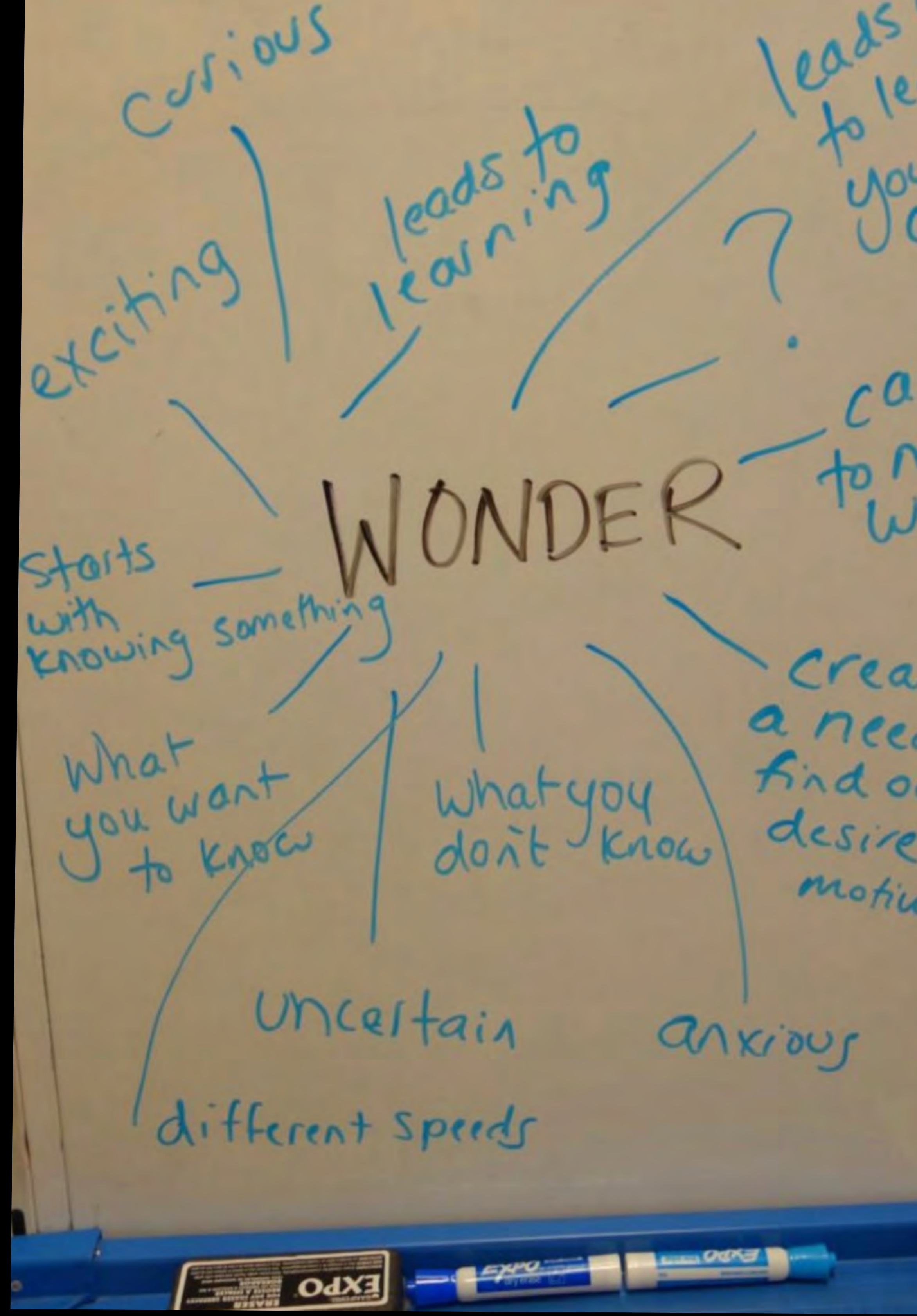
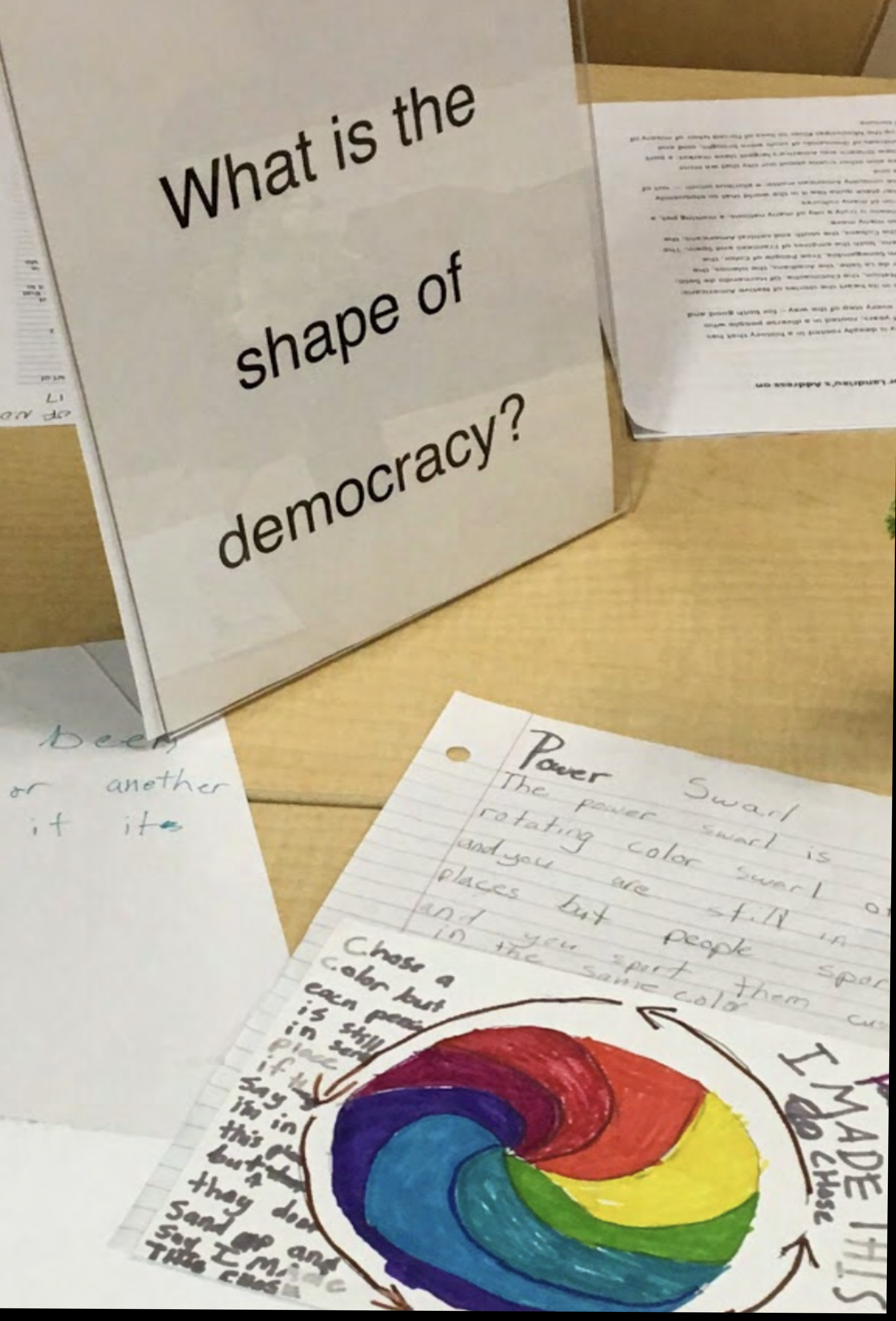
How do we understand and take action as mindful citizens on complicated public issues?



What would happen if all children in all parts of the world had the opportunity to explore, on a daily basis, what it means to be human in the midst of diversity?
 Karen Gallas







SOURCES: Educators at Opal School Museum of Play and in the Central Okanagan School District

Created by the Central Okanagan Public School's Instructional Leadership Team