Making our circle story... Finding our homeland

A professional learning day for primary teachers

Friday 16 June 2017 | Sydney School of Education and Social Work

Making a circle story is a way of exploring who we are in relation to our sense of belonging to the place we call home.

Reflecting the Indigenous principles of learning that Nadia Wheatley experienced while working in the Aboriginal community of Papunya (Northern Territory), this one-day workshop will engage you in a way of thinking that has Country at its centre and story as its expression.

For teachers of Stages 2 and 3, this holistic, cross-curricular professional learning day will be invaluable in addressing a range of standards across KLAs including (but not limited to) English, History, Geography and the Creative Arts.

During the day you will also have an opportunity to visit the Learning from Country Exhibition on display in the Exhibition Space, Fisher Library, University of Sydney. A fascinating journey through the artwork and associated materials from six multi-award-winning books produced by Nadia Wheatley and artist/designer, Ken Searle, this exhibition shows teachers how to use a traditional way of learning with culturally diverse urban students.

Please join us for an interactive exploration of these books and ideas. The workshop will include hands-on experience of a rich task that you will be able to take back to the classroom and use with students with a range of abilities and backgrounds.

Books featured at the workshop include: My Place, Playground, Going Bush, Papunya School Book of Country and History, Playground, and Australians All.

Presenter: Nadia Wheatley is an Australian writer whose work includes picture books, novels, biography and history. In 2014 she was admitted by the University of Sydney to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), in recognition of ‘her exceptional creative achievements in the field of children’s and adult literature, her work as an historian and her contribution to our understanding of Indigenous issues, cultural diversity, equity and social justice and the environment through story’.

She has run Circle Story workshops as professional learning days with Indigenous teachers from East Timor, with the Sydney School of Education and Social Work, the University of Sydney, with participants at a national ALEA/AATE Conference in Darwin, and with the staff of a number of primary schools.

Registration & Fees: $275 per person GST Incl. Includes workshop attendance, resources, morning tea and lunch. Register online by visiting: sydney.edu.au/education_social_work/professional_learning and follow the links. This workshop day will be held in Seminar Room 218, Level 2, Fisher Library, the University of Sydney.

Completing Making our circle story... Finding our homeland will contribute 5hrs of NESA registered PD addressing 2.4.2, 3.4.2 and 5.2.2 from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.