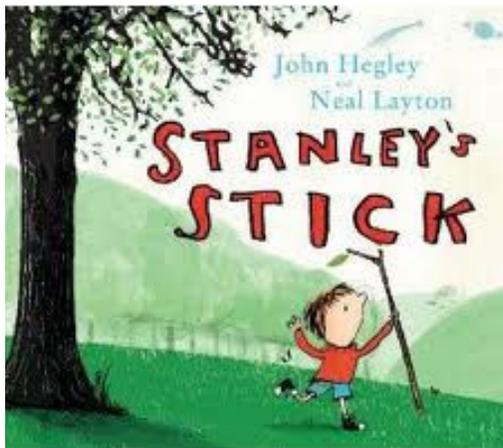


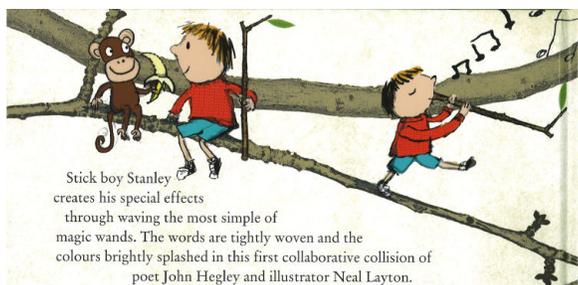
Writing Trait: Ideas

Learning Intention: Add descriptive details that creatively describes how a stick might be used.

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By John Hegley



Before Reading

Learning Outcomes: A2, A3, A5, A6, A9, B5,

Ask students to think about a time in which they played with a stick in a creative way. Ask one or two students to share their thinking so that others might gather potential ideas for themselves. Have students close their eyes and think about how they used the stick, where they were, and what the stick looked like. Ask students to turn and talk to a partner about their adventure with a stick. Share lots of ideas aloud for the whole class to hear.

As a child, I laced string between a Y-shaped branch and used it to catch crabs (big enough to eat!) on the beaches of Point Roberts.

Explain that Stanley's stick is about a boy who uses his stick in many ways. Ask students to listen carefully to see if Stanley used his stick the same way as any of the examples that were shared.

During Reading

Learning Outcomes: B6, B11

Pause while reading to allow children to make more connections between their stick play and the book.

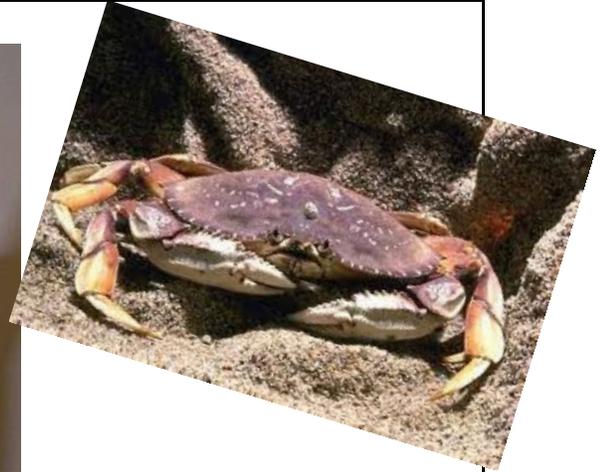
After Reading

Learning Outcomes: B7, B11, C4,

Have students think of new ways they might use a stick. Use the ideas in the book as a springboard for more, creative thoughts. I'm a huge fan of experiential, play-based writing, so please take your kids outside for an afternoon of stick play before writing! It will fuel them with details to include.

With lots of ideas gathered, have students create a piece of writing that explains the use of their stick. Before writing though, *co-create criteria* about what would make their writing really interesting for the reader. From their list of ideas, choose a few that should be carefully thought about while writing so that their written product meets the criteria.

Share the two writing samples that follow and discuss strengths and weaknesses of each.



Catching Crab with a Stick

When I was a little girl, I would go down to the beach and walk in the tidal pools hoping to catch a crab with my stick. When I caught one, I would put it in my burlap sack and carry it back to our cabin. My mom would make crab quiche, crab salad or crab cakes out of it. We would have lucky tummies. Yum , yum!

How I used it

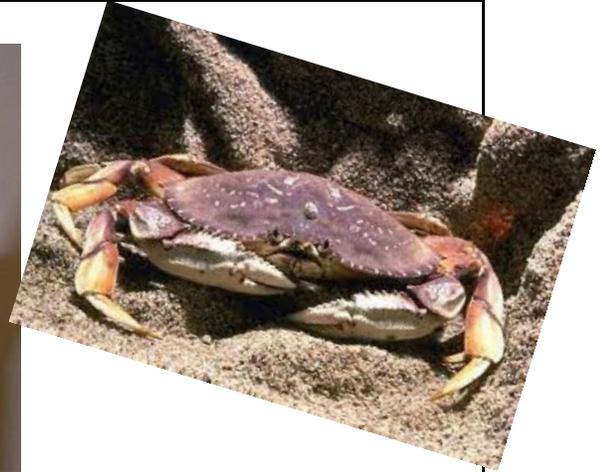
What it looked like

A feeling

What I used it for

Where I was

My Stick



Crabby Stick

In the early morning, when the tide was way out on the sandy beaches of Point Roberts, I walked with a burlap sack at my side. I had to be careful because burlap that rubs on bare legs, is like sandpaper scraping your skin. It's rough. It scratches and it's simply not pleasant. To avoid this, I would tie the burlap sack to the end of my stick; my crab-finding stick.

But as soon as I reached the shallow tidal waters, my stick was no longer responsible for preventing the burlap from scratching. No, no, no, now my stick was a crab-catching wand. With string woven back and forth along the Y part of the stick, the crabs would get confused and use their pincers to hold on tightly to the string. Once a crab was in this position, the catching was easy. I simply opened my burlap sack and shook him vigorously until my future crab cakes or crab quiche were in my sack! Yum, yum. When's lunch?



Our Learning Intention:

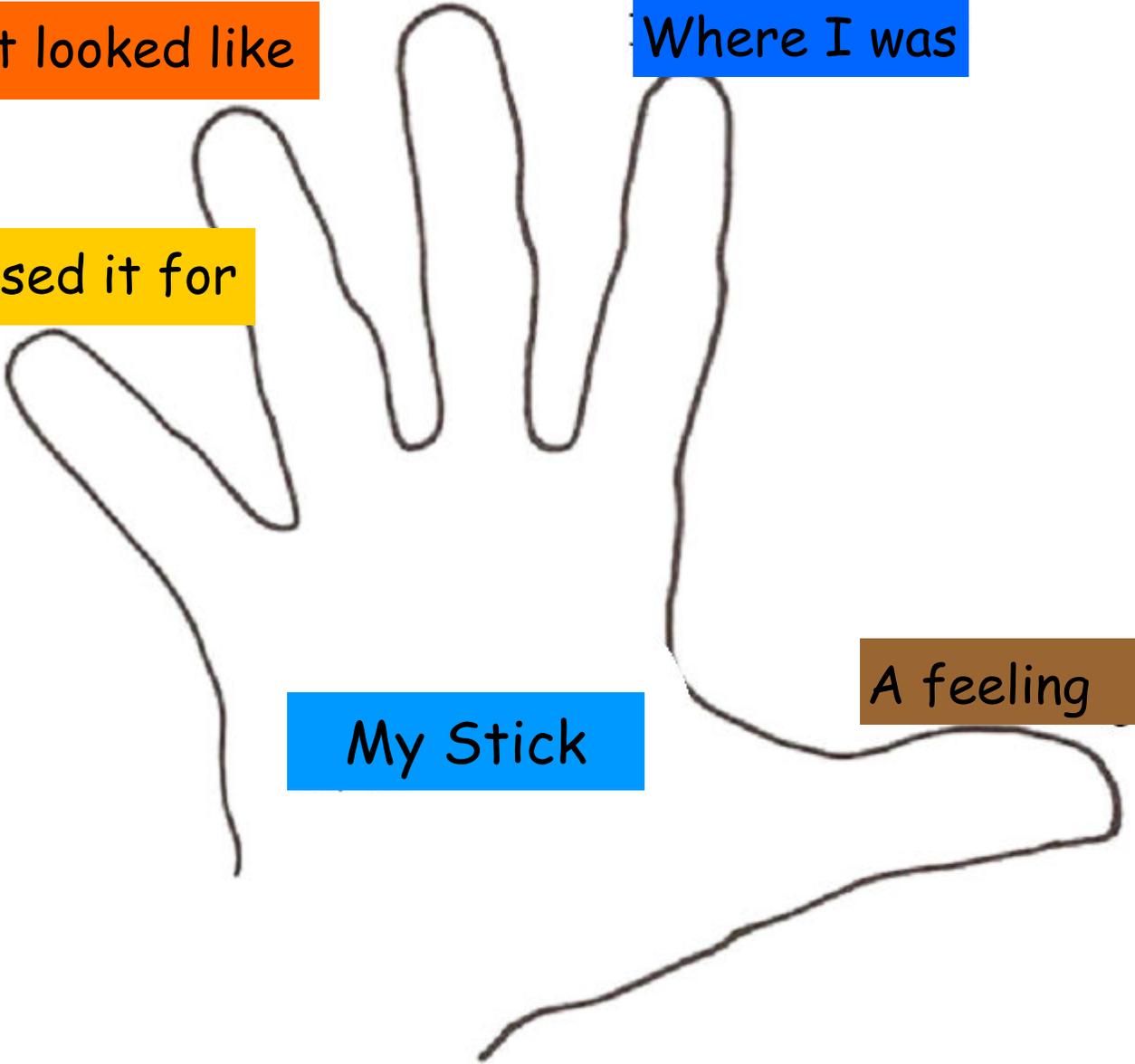
I can add several deluxe details when writing.

How I used it

What it looked like

Where I was

What I used it for



My Stick

A feeling

