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Eco-Storytelling: Connecting Curriculum, Conservation, and Creativity in Schools

Length: 60-minutes

Format: Interactive, hands-on workshop

Target audience: Pre-Service Teachers, Teachers, Educators, Teacher-Librarians, Heads of Curriculum, Literacy Coordinators.

Abstract:
Overview: Learn how eco-storytelling can fit in with English, Literacy, Science, Art, Design, Technology, and Sustainability within the National Curriculum. Highlight case studies of recent Australian picture books that align with the curriculum and can be used to inspire student agency so they can create their own eco-stories, improve environmental awareness, and affect change at the grass roots level. Attendees will be provided with resources to guide students to write and illustrate their own environmental picture books.

Objectives:
- Highlight alignment between eco-storytelling, literacy, and environmental curriculum outcomes.
- Present case studies of Australian eco-picture books to use in schools.
- Provide resources for classroom and library use to empower teachers and librarians to guide students in creating their own eco-picture books.
- Encourage attendees to advocate for eco-literacy initiatives in their schools.

Activities:
- Discuss how eco-picture books and their creation by students are an ideal match for multiple curriculum objectives.
- Discuss the effectiveness of eco-picture books in creating student engagement, evidencing how the writing and reading of them improves literacy and agency.
- Overview of case studies about Australian eco-picture books that fit the curriculum and how they can be used in the classroom. Include resource list.
- Discussion of practical ways to implement student eco-story projects in libraries.
- Hands-on planning activity: attendees draft a storyboard for an eco-picture book.
- Volunteers share their ideas for feedback.

Case Study Books:
- Endangered Animal Tales Series (Aleesah Darlison)
- Secrets of the Saltmarsh (Claire Saxby)
- Footprint (Phil Cummings)

Outcomes: Attendees will gain strategies to integrate eco-storytelling into curriculum-aligned classroom and library activities, gain confidence in book selection, be inspired to advocate for environmental literacy initiatives, and receive resources lists and activity sheets.