

Jack Doerfler
Professor Tolliver
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Literature is something that's interested me for the majority of my life. I was around eight years old when this interest first started, and ever since then I've learned so much about literature and how it can be portrayed. One of the events that changed my view of literature the most is reading the Frog and Toad series. My framework for this event is discourses and identity kits. Another event that impacted my literacy journey is reading the book and watching the movie for Wonder. The framework for this event is perceptions of language. Despite the differences between these two literacy events, they both have one thing in common, and it's that people should seek out information that interests them and they should do so in ways that are fit for them. Since I'm more of a visual learner, I tend to grasp the concept of a piece of literature when it has pictures or symbols, and if it doesn't, I try to visualize it in my head. These events have by far had some of the biggest impacts on how I view literature today.

The event that kicked off my literacy journey is reading the Frog and Toad series. This series has four books that talk about the journeys Frog and Toad go through within their friendship. Throughout the series, they've been able to maintain a strong bond and learn valuable lessons along the way. These lessons are what mainly got my attention when I read the first book, and shortly after, I read through the entire series because the books were that good. An example of these lessons can be seen in the book Frog and Toad are Friends when Frog says to Toad: "Will

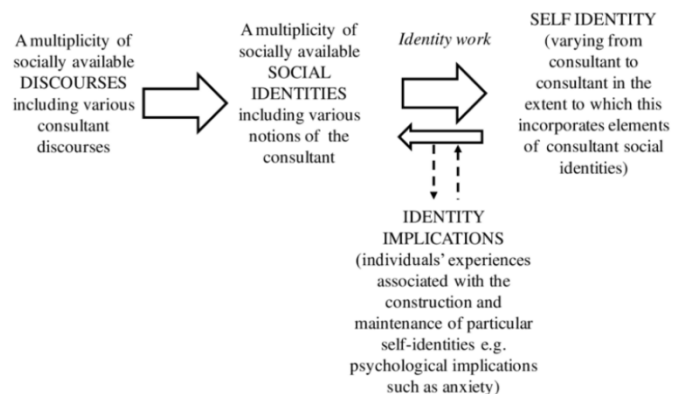
power is trying hard not to do something that you really want to do.” (Lobel 35) (Radtke 2016)



Another reason why the Frog and Toad books did such a great job at getting my attention was the pictures that went along with the events in the text. If a text has pictures, it does a much better job

at getting my attention, and since there were pictures throughout each book, they kept my attention up to the end. The framework that goes hand in hand with this event is discourses and identity kits. A discourse is an identity kit that comes with a set of instructions on how to act, talk, and write. This is one reason why I’ve struggled with literature in the past and sometimes today, because my identity kit and my writing style don’t always meet the requirements of an assignment. In the article Literacy, Discourse, and Linguistics: Introduction, James Paul Gee discusses how language can affect people in their everyday lives, as well as how discourses and identity kits affect people’s ability to understand and produce literature. As Gee states in his article, “The various Discourses which constitute each of us as persons are changing and often are not fully consistent with each other”

(Gee 7) It’s important to understand that people’s writing and learning styles will never be the same. (Gill 2014) People might perceive information similarly to their peers, but their

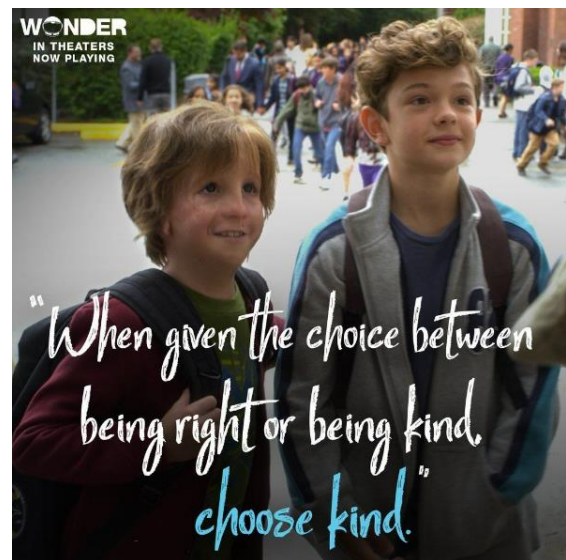


perspective will always be different in some capacity. Reading the Frog and Toad series helped me realize that my identity kit involves learning better when there's a picture involved and not learning as well when there are only words. As Gee also states in the text, "Within a Discourse you are always teaching more than writing or reading." (Gee 11) This event impacts me today because I still find visual literature easier to grasp the concepts of than novels and articles. Despite being able to understand literature when it's mostly or entirely in words, I have a harder time doing so. These are some of the reasons why this event in my literacy journey has been so impactful.

Another event in my literacy journey that had one of the biggest impacts is when I read the book and watched the movie for Wonder. Wonder is about a kid named August who has a facial deformity going to public school for the first time.

Throughout the book and the movie, many lessons are learned along the way relating to kindness, respect, and confidence. (Pinterest) As stated in the book, "Here's what I think: the only reason I'm not ordinary is that no one else sees me that way."

(Palacio 3) I got into Wonder when I read the book in my sixth-grade class. Shortly after, I was able to



see the movie. This experience had an impact on me and my understanding of literature because I was able to have pictures in my head of the events from the book and compare them with the actual movie. Because of this, the framework that fits best with this event is perceptions of language. Perceptions of language are basically how language is used, and it can also be referred

to as language framing. Perceptions of language have a huge impact on social norms. Some of

DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES

& tips for teaching



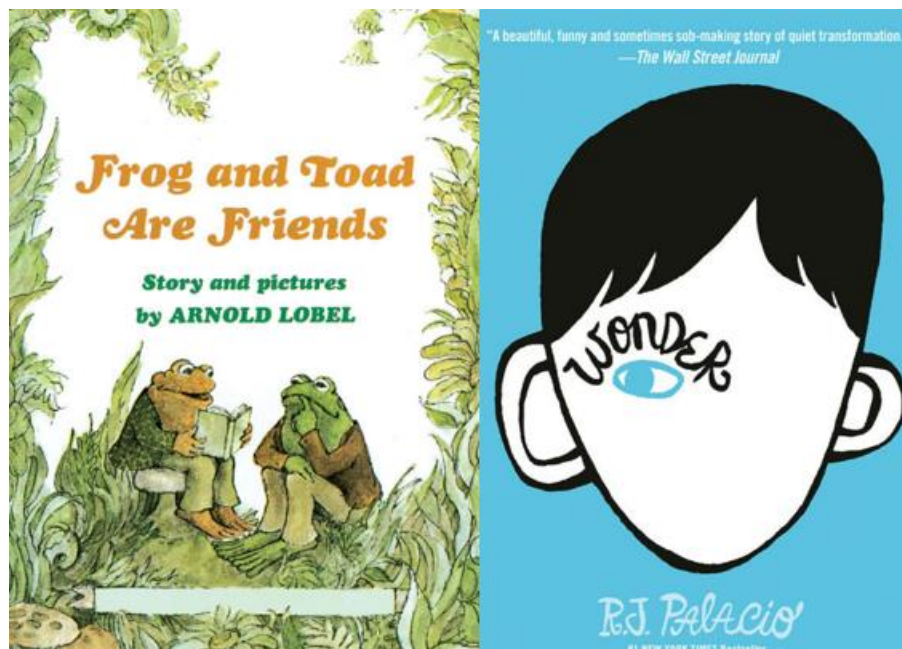
the different ways language can be viewed are through pictures, reading, and audio. In the case of this literary event, language is viewed visually and through reading. (Brenda 2018) Perceptions of language can also be different

depending on what culture someone belongs to. As stated in the introduction of Middle-Class African American English by Tracey L. Weldon, “African American English (AAE) is a systematic, rule-governed variety deeply rooted in the history and culture of its speakers.” (Weldon 1) This goes to show

that perceptions of language aren’t just about how someone learns best and that it’s also about what someone’s background is. In addition to someone’s background, someone’s difficulties with speech can also impact their perceptions of language. I can personally relate to this, as I’ve gone to see therapy for many years when I was a kid. As stated in the article SLPs’ perceptions of language learning myths about children who are DHH, “Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are called to provide high-quality, evidence-based services to a wide variety of individuals with communication needs.” (McDaniel et al. 245) This is a testament to how many factors can affect the ways in which someone understands language and literature. This event impacts me to this day because similar to the time period I read the book and watched the movie for Wonder, I still find it interesting to read a book and then see it being represented visually. Having a multimodal learning experience can be very helpful for me because it makes the writing and reading part so

much easier if there's a picture or video involved. These are the main reasons why this event had such a big impact on my literacy journey.

In the end, these two events get most of the credit for changing my literacy journey for the better, and despite the differences between them, they both have taught me one thing, and that is: It's important for people to seek out information that interests them and it's important to do so through methods that work best for them. I would not be the writer I am today without these past experiences. Even though I've had a difficult time with literature in the past and I sometimes do to this day, I wouldn't change my experiences for anything, because everything happens for a reason. In addition to what impacted my literacy journey, I'm also thankful for who impacted my literacy journey. Because a majority of my literacy journey was shaped by what I learned in school, I can't thank those teachers enough for having the passion to teach me and for genuinely caring about my learning experience. (Scholastic)(Thevamurali 2023)



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