



Using Interactive Climate-Change Based Storybooks In Elementary Schools To Teach About Place-Based Climate Change



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Abstract

In the context of climate change, it is crucial to impart knowledge about the changing climate and its impact on our ecosystems and societies to the present generation of young learners. The objective of this study is to augment the self-efficacy of elementary school teachers in imparting climate literacy. The research emphasizes the development of pertinent storybooks focused on climate change in Leon County and Wakulla County. These storybooks are tailored to capture the imagination of a youthful audience, with familiar scenes and characters, fostering critical and reflective engagement. The climate change education field must present information in an easily comprehensible and interactive format. We seek to evaluate the potential of these storybooks in elementary school classrooms to foster climate change awareness through community-based ways with an eventual goal of generating qualitative outcomes in the upcoming academic years. Ultimately, we hope the outcome of these storybooks advances the empowerment of climate change literacy amongst educational professionals and students through a call to action to create their climate action project.

Leon County Storybook

Our Sustainable School



Discussion

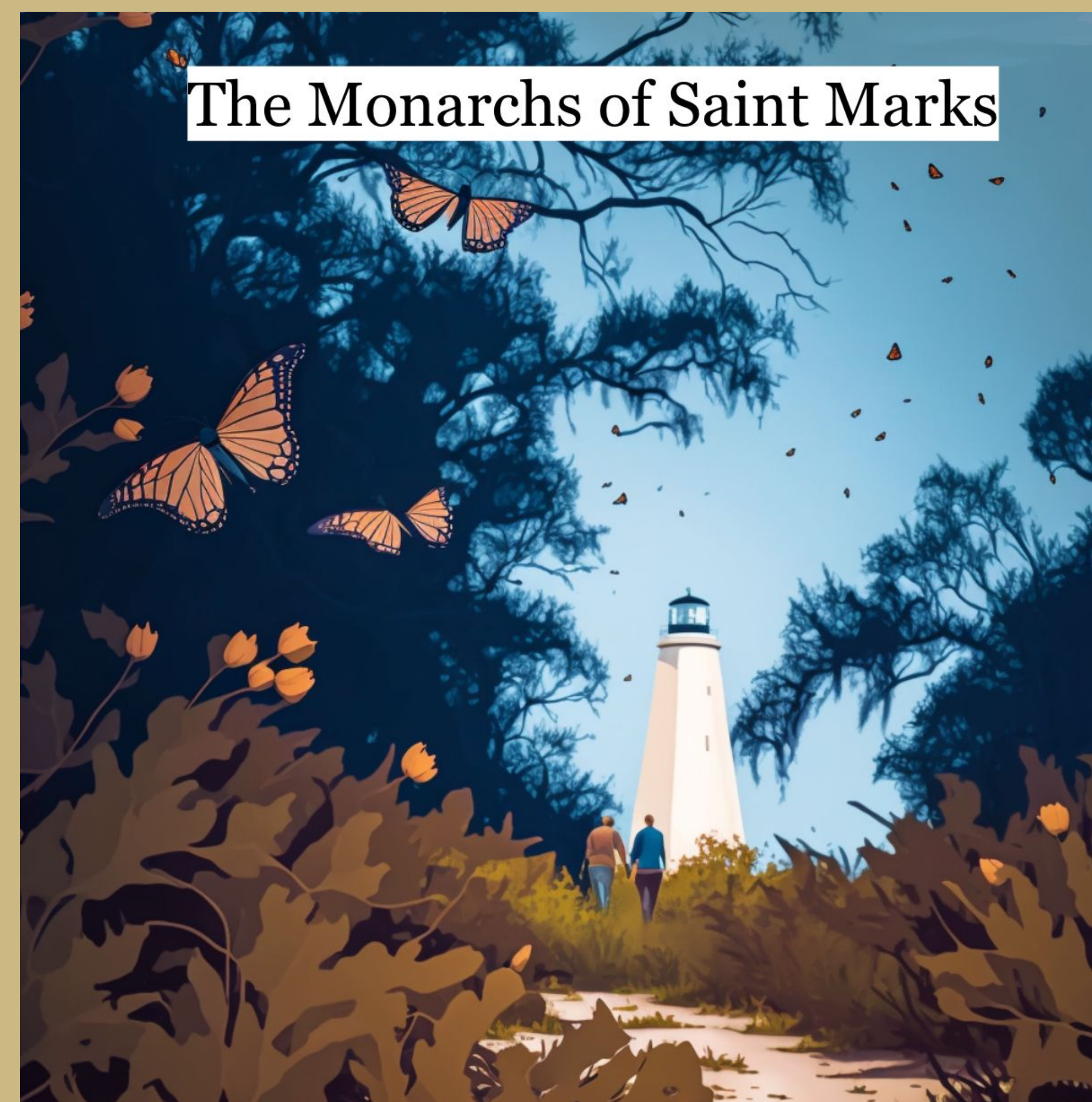
- By using interactive climate-change based storybooks in elementary schools, children can be introduced to the concept of climate change in a way that is accessible and engaging.
- The place-based approach highlights the importance of understanding how climate change will impact specific regions and communities, which can help students develop a deeper connection and sense of responsibility towards their surrounding environment.
- The new generation will likely be more heavily impacted by the effects of climate change, making it important to educate them on the issue and empower them to take action towards mitigating its effects.
- The potential significance of using storytelling in climate change education is that it can help foster a sense of urgency and responsibility towards the issue, leading to greater engagement and action towards environmental mitigation practices.

Methods

- The storybooks were created and designed through the platform Google Slides.
- The structure and setup of the storybooks were facilitated by digital secondary research regarding pertinent topics to amplify engagement within the intended audience, such as storification pedagogy and climate change science communication.
- Place-based visuals, images, and scenes from the storybook were purposefully chosen to appeal to the audience.

Wakulla County Storybook

The Monarchs of Saint Marks



Future Directions

- The storybooks may inform the development of age-appropriate storybooks for different grade levels in elementary schools, helping to create a scaffolded approach to teaching about climate change.
- The storybooks can contribute to the creation of shareable story examples that can be disseminated and used by educators and environmental organizations alike.

References

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