

Trout in the Classroom Essay - Kihoe Carroll

I'm interested in the program because I have spent my whole life loving to fish and wanting to protect the stream and the ecosystem. Growing up, I always loved nature. When I was about 7 years old, my grandpa took me fishing for the first time, and that's when I first fell in love with nature. My grandpa loves to fish, and I'm very close with my grandpa, so most of the time we spend together is either camping or fishing. Last year, my grandpa got diagnosed with stage 2 skin cancer, and we couldn't go out walking or fishing that whole summer. Not being able to do that with him made me eternally grateful for the time I get to spend in nature and learning to fly fish with him. That experience made me realize that others may love it as much as I do and may be just as attached to those kinds of memories as I am. Every time I go fishing, I think of him. I want to protect the stream to help keep making more memories and help others be able to make memories in nature, just like I did, and sustain the stream and ecosystem.

In the classroom, we learned about testing pH and that it needs to be level 7 to keep water healthy, and that we need dissolved oxygen levels to be high. We also learned about Eutrophication and how it occurs when too many nitrates get into the water and cause a large amount of algae blooms. We also learned about water temperature and nutrient levels, and how they affect the water and the stream. We learned about stream conservation and pollution, and how global warming is affecting us humans, and also affecting nature and the ecosystem.

The trout in the in the classroom has changed lots since we first got the eggs, while the fish were still in the early alvian stage one of my fellow students hit a tube on the tank and water leaked across the whole classroom over the weekend when miss luce came back to feed the fish and crabs she found the whole classroom flooded and the fish dead. She had to get new fish eggs and start over completely. When we got new fish eggs everything went great the next time and our trout grew and evolved, we got to see then go through there different stage of life, we got to see them got through the alvian stage, the fry stage of life where they will develop their parr marks and they will shift into the juvenile stage of life where they will grow territorially and begin to feed on the smaller trout in the tank. They will rapidly grow into the adult stage of life, and we will release them into the wild on the trout trip.

The Trout project has helped me grow more understanding of stream conservation and how it is much more important than you think. I learned how to show stewardship and be responsible for our environment and ecosystem. In conclusion, I learned how trout and the stream help our environment. I learned how to know when water is unsanitary and polluted, and how to help it. I got to see the trout change and evolve, and go through the different stages of life.