

*Naturegemalde: Teaching Classic Ecology Papers as Graphic Novels*

Ecology is an ever-growing field encompassing a plethora of subdisciplines many of which rely upon theory spanning the last 200 years. As such, many of these foundational papers are written in a style and approach that can prove daunting to undergraduate students new to the field. Simultaneously, understanding the knowledge and scientific approaches used in these papers is integral to educational growth. Following an initial assignment centered upon Kettlewell's classic 1955 paper on industrial melanism in British moths, we attacked a suite of classic papers in ecology through reading, subsequently repurposing them as graphic novels. Each graphic targeted middle-school aged children. In so doing, we became more engaged in the works we read while markedly increasing our understanding. Moreover, the archaic language sometimes used in these papers and the complex analyses employed became enjoyable when turned into acts of creative art. Our educational satisfaction in our General Ecology course also was increased and we highly recommend this approach to increase comprehension and appreciation of the discipline of Ecology. We will share our graphic novels via a "Scientific Story Time."