

Flora and Ulysses

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Illustrator: K. G. Campbell

Awards: Newbery Medal

School Subject: English- spelling and vocabulary

Publisher: Candlewick Press

c. 2013

of pages: 231

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

ISBN: 9780763660406

Level: Ages 8-13

Rating: Very Good

Setting: Flora's house

Major Characters: Flora Belle Buckman and Ulysses

Synopsis: Flora is a ten year old girl that comes across a heroic squirrel, Ulysses, that can write poetry. After discovering Ulysses super powers Flora spends the majority of her time protecting the squirrel from his enemy, Flora's mother.

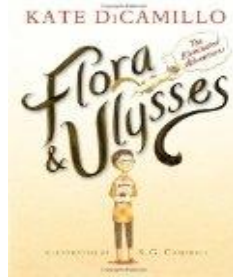
Teaching Value: English-poetry and vocabulary

Ideas: Write a poem using the writing techniques that Ulysses uses. Talk about the vocabulary in the book and look up definitions. Introduce the subject of divorce and have a class discussion.

Warnings: Emotional talk about divorce between Flora and her Mother. There is also talk about death of a parent.

Worldview: The author seems to think that divorce has begun to be a major impact in children's lives.

Personal Opinion: This book seems like it's the whole package. It's filled with adventure, relatable life experiences (divorce), and applying things learned in school like vocabulary and poetry. The story pulls you along the whole time that is very easy and interesting to read.



Where the Wild Things Are

Author: Maurice Sendak

Illustrator: Maurice Sendak

Awards: Caldecott Medal

School Subject: Art; Music

Publisher: Harper Collins

c. 1988

of pages: 48

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

ISBN: 0060254920

Level: Ages 4-8

Rating: Very Good

Genre: Fantasy Fiction

Artwork: Tempera painting

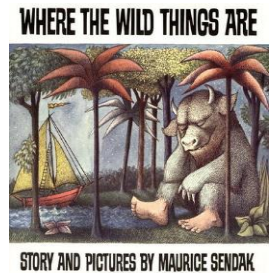
Words/Pictures: There are a few words on a page that are to the point yet descriptive. The pictures are the main focus of the story and are exceedingly well done.

Summary: A boy, Max, was very naughty and went to bed early without any supper. While in his room, Max sails to a faraway land where he becomes king of the wild things. Max realizes that he should return home where he finds dinner waiting for him.

Teaching values: Art; Mythical Creatures; Creation; Music

Ideas: Have students create their own wild creatures. Have students make up their own monster dance.

Personal Opinion: I love this book because the illustrations in this book are beautiful. This book is also very relatable for children because they all get in trouble at some point with their parents and have to be sent to their room. It also encourages children to be imaginative and create things that are not in existence.



The Polar Express

Author: Chris Van Allsburg

Illustrator: Chris Van Allsburg

Awards: Caldecott

School Subject: Literature; Holiday; Religion

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

c. 1985

of pages: 32

Genre: Adventure Fiction

ISBN: 9780395389492

Level: Ages 3-9

Rating: Excellent

Artwork: Oil painting

Words/ Pictures: Some challenging words. Very descriptive words and there are not too many on a page so older kids could read on their own. The pictures are beautiful and elaborate on the text.

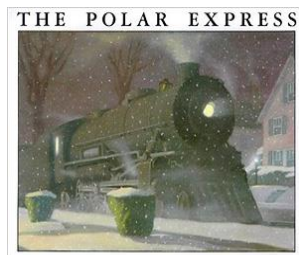
Summary: A boy wakes up in the middle of the night to find a magical train waiting for him. The train is filled with children on their way to the North Pole to meet Santa. Santa meets the boy and gives him the first gift of Christmas, a bell. The boy loses the bell but Santa returns the bell to him Christmas day. Only the boy and his sister can hear the bell because they are the only ones who believe in Santa.

Teaching Values: Religion-beliefs

Ideas: Have them draw or talk about what they would want as the first gift of Christmas.

Personal Opinion: This is a book every child should read at some point. It gets you in the Christmas spirit and is a beautiful book to read.

Misc: Talk to children about how they could relate believing in Santa and having the bell ring, to believing in Christ.



Stone Fox

Author: John Reynolds

Illustrator: Marcia Sewall

Award: None

School Subject: History

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

c. 1980

of pages: 81

Genre: Historical Fiction

ISBN: 0439095107

Level: Ages 8-10

Rating: Good

Setting: A farm in Wyoming

Synopsis: A little boy's grandfather got depressed because the grandfather was very deep in debt. The little boy decides to take it upon himself to get the money to pay his grandfather's debt.

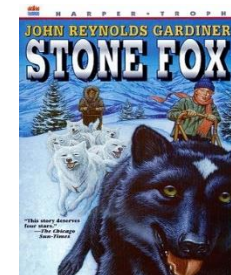
Teaching Values: History; Native Americans; Perseverance

Ideas: Write an alternative ending to a story. Talk about the history of Native Americans in regards to the story.

Warnings: Sudden death at the end

Worldview: The author has a respect for women and puts them in a position of authority (doctor). He also has a respect for different cultures (Native American).

Personal Opinion: I really liked this book because of how the boy was able to step into the role of provider for him and his grandfather. The only part I did not like was when the dog's heart exploded because the story ended very abruptly.



Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew: Small Volcanoes

Author(s): Sarah Kinney & Stefan Petrucha

Illustrators(s): Stan Goldberg & Laurie E. Smith

Awards: None

Subject: Science

Publisher: Papercutz c. 2012

of pages: 63

ISBN: 9781597073554

Level: Ages 6-9 **Rating:** Good

Genre: Mystery

Artwork: Cartoon

Words/ Pictures: Lots of pictures. Minimal words per page

Summary: Nancy Drew and her friends have to turn in a science project. The day before it's due, all of her classmates' science projects go missing. Now Nancy and her friends must complete their science project and find the missing ones.

Teaching Values: Earth Science; working together; solving problems

Ideas: Make a volcano like the ones in the book. Talk about how to work efficiently with our peers.

Personal Opinion: This book had great illustrations and the story was great. I do not know if I would make this book into a lesson.



The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

Author: Mark Twain

Awards: None

School Subject: History

Publisher: Dover

c.1994 **# of pages:** 220

Genre: Historical Fiction; Adventure **ISBN:** 0486280616

Level: 10-16 **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: 1800's on the Mississippi River in St. Petersburg, Missouri

Major Characters: Huckleberry Finn and Jim the slave

Synopsis: Huck Finn ran away from his house to escape his abusive father. Along the way he runs into Jim who is trying to become a free slave. The rest of the book is about the adventures the two boys come across on their way to freedom.

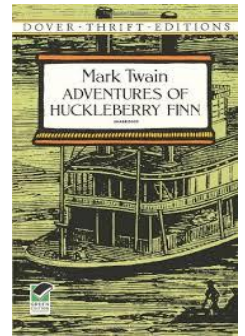
Teaching Value: History; Racism

Ideas: Talk about the independence of Huck. Talk about the history of African American slaves and their escape for freedom.

Worldview: Mark Twain focuses on the civil and uncivilized worlds and compares to the two and exposes their flaws.

Warnings: Exceedingly racist

Personal Opinion: Classic piece of literature that students should be exposed to. It is an accurate depiction of how things were in the 1800s. Along with being educational it is entertaining because it is filled with adventure.



To Kill a Mockingbird

Author: Harper Lee

Awards: Pulitzer Prize

School Subject: History

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing

c. 1960 **#of pages:** 384

Genre: Historical Fiction **ISBN:** 9780446310789

Level: 13-17 **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: 1930's Alabama on a farm

Major Characters: Scout and Jem

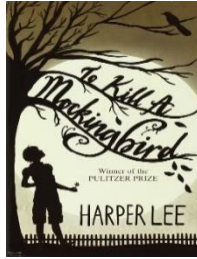
Synopsis: Scout and Jem have a mysterious neighbor that they try numerous times for many years to meet. They've heard many rumors about him, not all good. The kids find out near the end that their neighbor has been doing them favors throughout their lives and has known who they are all along.

Teaching Values: Great Depression; Racism

Ideas: Have the students write a defense proposal for the jury based on the court case. Perform them.

Worldview: I think that this author has a good character and is encouraging readers to know others before they judge them.

Personal Opinion: I loved this book because there were so many lessons to be learned. The style of writing was so intriguing to me as the reader and kept me wanting to read more.



Olivia

Author: Ian Falconer

Illustrated: Ian Falconer

Awards: Caldecott Honor

Subject: Literature

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

c. 2000 **# of pages:** 40

Genre: Fiction; fantasy **ISBN:** 0439319048

Level: Ages 3-6 **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Charcoal pictures

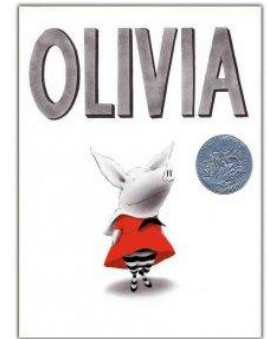
Words/Pictures: Mostly pictures, not too many words

Summary: Olivia introduces us to her family, shows us her likes and dislikes, and demonstrates her daily routine.

Teaching value: relatability; dealing with problems

Ideas: Have students draw a picture of their family or their likes and dislikes. Have them talk about their daily routine.

Personal Opinion: I really enjoy this book because it is quite humorous. Young kids will really be able to relate to the character in this book.



The Ugly Duckling

Author: Hans Christian Andersen

Illustrator: Jerry Pinkney

Awards: Caldecott

Subject: Bullying; Self-worth; Animal science

Publisher: Morrow Junior Books

c. 1999 **#of pages:** 40

Genre: Fiction; Adventure; Fairy Tales **ISBN:** 0688159320

Level: Ages 4-8 **Rating:** Excellent

Artwork: Watercolors

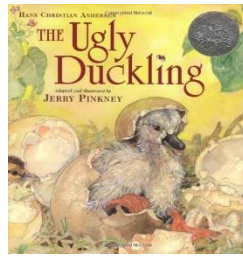
Words/Pictures: Fair amount of words but not too overwhelming

Summary: A swan is born into a family of ducks. The other ducks pick on the swan, making him decide to leave. The swan wonders around trying to find where he fits in. Eventually he comes across a group of swans that look just like him and the swan no longer feels ugly.

Teaching Value: Bullying; Self-worth; Differences between birds

Ideas: Talk about times when you might have felt bullied or didn't belong. What did you do? Talk about the differences between birds.

Personal Opinion: Great book! The illustrations are beautiful. Gives kids a nice lesson on how the things we say could be hurtful.



Rumpelstiltskin

Author: Paul O. Zelinsky

Illustrator: Paul O. Zelinsky

Awards: Caldecott

Subject: Fairytales

Publisher: Dutton

c. 1986 **# of pages:** 40

Genre: Fairy Tale **ISBN:** 0525442650

Level: Ages 4-10 **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Renaissance oil painting

Words/Pictures: Fair amount of words

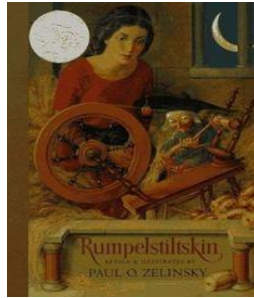
Summary: A king forces a girl to turn straw into gold, otherwise he would kill her. Then a little man came and spun the straw into gold at the expense of a possession of the girls. The girl runs out of things to give the man so she promises her first born to him. The girl then must find a way to save her child.

Teaching Value: Material things are not important; Do not make promises you can't keep.

Ideas: Act it out

Warning: Threats of death

Personal Opinion: The illustrations are great and I love this story.



Joseph Had a Little Overcoat

Author: Simms Taback

Illustrator: Simms Taback

Awards: Caldecott

Subject: Literature; Science

Publisher: Penguin Group

c. 1999 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0670878553

Level: Ages 3-8 **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Paper collage

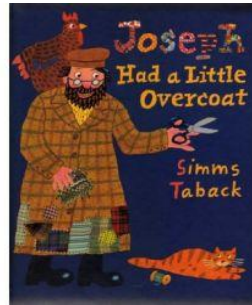
Words/ Pictures: Few words with big pictures

Summary: Joseph has an overcoat that is very old. He recycles it many times until eventually nothing is left of the coat.

Teaching Values: To reuse things; Recycle

Ideas: Have them bring something old from home that they don't use anymore and find a way to recycle it. Make their own story about something that is recycled and what it turns into.

Personal Opinion: This book is really adorable. The illustrations are great and very descriptive to the words. Great way to introduce recycling to young children.



Miss Nelson is Missing!

Author: Harry Allard

Illustrator: James Marshall

Awards: None

Subject: Literature

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin

c. 1977 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 9780395252963

Level: Ages 5-7 **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Mostly watercolor

Words/ Pictures: Not too many words per page

Summary: Miss Nelson's class is very naughty. To solve this problem she comes to school disguised as a witch and makes the children do lots of homework. The children begin to miss Ms. Nelson. When Miss Nelson returns the students are now on their best behavior.

Teaching Values: Be on your best behavior.

Ideas: Class discussion about how different the children's behavior was at the beginning of the book as opposed to the end. Then talk about which kind of behavior they should have in school. You as the teacher could come to school dressed as the witch.

Personal Opinion: I think that this book is hilarious. When the teacher comes back as witch and makes all the kids do homework is very funny. I'm sure many teachers have wanted to do something like that if they have a naughty class.



Alphabet Mystery

Author: Audrey Wood

Illustrator: Bruce Wood

Award: None

Subject: English

Publisher: The Blue Sky Press

c. 2003

#of pages: 40

Genre: Mystery Fiction

ISBN: 0439443377

Level: Ages 3-5

Rating: Very Good

Artwork: Digital 3-D Art

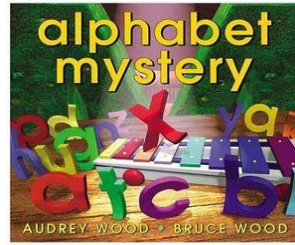
Words/Pictures: Not a lot of words per page. Main focus is on the illustrations

Summary: The letter “x” goes missing from the alphabet. The other letters go on a mission to find him.

Teaching Values: Teaching lower case letters

Ideas: Have them point out when the capital letters come into the story. Assign each of the letters to the students and have them draw the letters as if they have a personality.

Personal Opinion: I like this book a lot because it is a different way to teach kids about the alphabet.



Davy Crockett

Author: Larry Dane Brimmer

Illustrator: Donna Berger

Award: None

Subject: History

Publisher: Compass Point Books

c. 2004

#of pages: 32

Genre: Folktale; Historical Fiction

ISBN: 0756506034

Level: Ages 6-10

Rating: Okay

Artwork: Tempra Painting

Words/Pictures: Good amount of words.

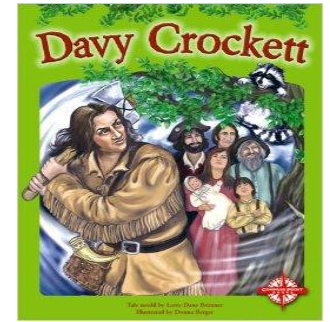
Summary: Series of folktales about Davy Crockett about how he came to be and some of his accomplishments.

Teaching Values: The history of Davy Crockett and the myths that were told about him.

Ideas: Talk about the real “Davy Crockett” and discuss the differences between the real facts and what’s in the book. Look up some of the websites in the back of the book and have the student say one thing that they found out about Davy Crockett.

Personal Opinion: I found this book to be kind of difficult to read because it doesn’t pull you along like other stories. The illustrations in the book are very good. I like that they provide you with activities in the back of the book.

Misc: You may have to go over the vocabulary in the back of the book so that the children will understand the story.



A Long Way from Chicago

Author: Richard Peck

Awards: Newbery Honor

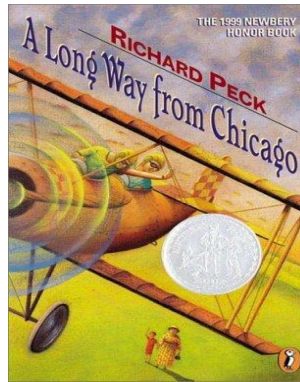
School Subject: History

Publisher: Scholastic

c. 1997

#of pages: 148

Genre: Historical Fiction **ISBN:** 0439240921



Level: 11-14

Rating: Very Good

Setting: 1929-1942 in Illinois

Major Characters: Mary Alice, Joey, Grandma

Synopsis: Mary Alice and Joey go to their Grandma's house for one week every summer. Their Grandma takes them on crazy adventures and influences them with her different mannerisms.

Teaching Values: Great Depression

Ideas: Talk about the history of the Great Depression. What did Grandma do to cope with the depression?

Worldview: The author is a feminist because the grandma is independent. The author must also have strong morals.

Personal Opinion: I loved this story. There were so many adventures that Grandma took the kids on. As you read you can watch the kids admiration for their grandma grow when she takes them on the adventures.

The Patch

Author: Justina Chen Headley

Illustrator: Mitch Vane

Award: None

Subject: Health

Publisher: Charlesbridge

c. 2006

#of pages: 32

Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 9781580890496

Level: Ages 5- 8

Rating: Okay

Artwork: Watercolor and dip pen in India ink

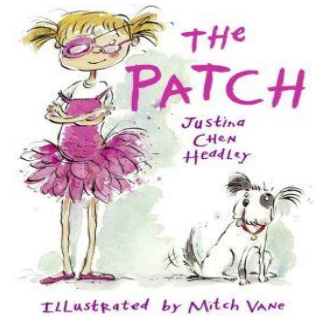
Words/Picture: Easy words and there are kind of a lot on a page

Summary: Becca gets diagnosed with amblyopia after her birthday. She has to wear an eye patch to correct her lazy eye. Becca is afraid that her peers will make fun of her so she says that she is a pirate. Eventually her teacher makes her tell the class why she is wearing her eye patch and her friends are very accepting of her lazy eye.

Teaching Value: Bullying people with disabilities; Informing about eye disorders

Ideas: Read the back of the book to define what amblyopia is.

Personal Opinion: I was indifferent about this book because it's geared toward younger kids but I don't know if they would understand a lazy eye. The story seemed like it was trying to be informative and tolerable of others disabilities.



Duck & Goose

Author: Tad Hills

Illustrator: Tad Hills

Awards: None

School Subject: Animal Science

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade Books

c. 2006

#of pages: 40

Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 037583611

Level: Ages 3-7

Rating: Very Good

Artwork: Oil Paint

Words/Pictures: Words are very descriptive and simple.

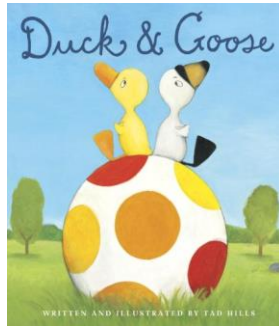
Summary: Duck and goose come across what they think is an egg. They argue about who gets to keep it and raise it. Through their arguing they realize that they could raise the bird together. In the end, they figure out that the egg is not an egg, it's a ball.

Teaching Values: Animal Science; Working Together

Ideas: Students could discuss what kind of birds come from which kind of eggs. Class discussion about working together. If the ball was an egg what kind of bird would come out of it? Draw what it looks like.

Personal Opinion: The illustrations in this book are absolutely adorable. It has a good lesson about how its better when you work together.

Misc: Could be a good book for young readers to try and read on their own. Possibly with assistance.



The Day the Crayons Quit

Author: Drew Daywalt

Illustrator: Oliver Jeffers

Awards: None

School Subject: Art

Publisher: The Penguin Group

c. 2013

#of pages: 40

Genre: Fiction

ISBN: 978039925373

Level: Ages 3-7

Rating: Very Good

Artwork: Crayon

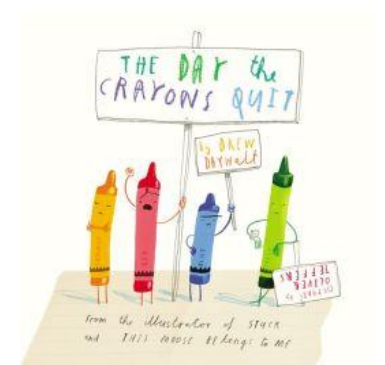
Words/ Picture: The words are not very difficult just a lot of them on a page.

Summary: Duncan arrives at school to find his crayons missing and a stack of letters in their place. All the crayons wrote a letter to Duncan expressing their frustration.

Teaching Value: Art; Creativity with color

Ideas: Have them draw a picture using colors that don't "belong"

Personal Opinion: I love this book because I find it to be hilarious. It pushes kids to be more creative with how they color. The illustrations are done how a child would draw them and so I think that the kids will be able to relate to the story through the illustrations.



Collected Poems for Children

Author: Charles Causley

Illustrator: John Lawrence

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Macmillan

c. 1951 **#of pages:** 394

Genre: Poetry **ISBN:** 0330389807

Level: Ages 7-12 **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Pen drawings

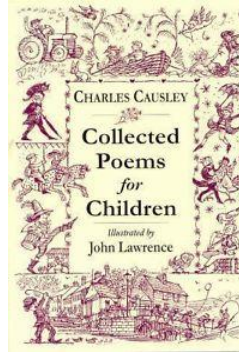
Words/Pictures: Very colorful language. Depends on the poem as to how many words per page. The pictures are very small.

Summary: This book is a collection of children's poems. It is sorted into categories like: come out to play, love songs, and odds and ends. All the poems relate to children in some way.

Teaching Value: Literature; Poetry

Ideas: Read poem and have the children draw a scene they think is being depicted

Personal Opinion: I really liked this book of poetry. I think it's a good way to introduce poetry to young children. The poems also relate to them so that will make them want to read them.



Aesop's Fables

Author: Munro Leaf

Illustrator: Robert Lawson

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: The Eastern Press

c. 1480 **#of pages:** 130

Genre: Fables **ISBN:** 0762428767

Level: Ages 5-8 **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Pen drawings

Words/ Pictures: The words are very descriptive and in big font. The pictures are very tiny.

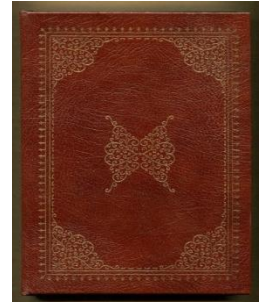
Summary: This collection of fables teaches kids a lesson. At the end of each fable is the moral of the story. It uses fictional characters like lions and turtles that can talk.

Teaching Value: Literature; Morals

Ideas: After reading the "the point" in each story have a class discussion about them

Personal Opinion: I liked this book a lot because it is a fun way to teach kids about morals. They use fun characters and the stories are enjoyable.

Misc: There is some vocabulary in this book that you may need to explain to the children before or during the reading of it.



D'Aulaires Book of Norse Myths

Author(s): Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Illustrator(s): Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature; History

Publisher: The New York Review of Books

c. 1967 **#of pages:** 154

Genre: Myths **ISBN:** 9781590171257

Level: Ages 5-9 **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Colored pencil drawings

Words/ Picture: There are a lot of words on a page with big font. The majority of the words are simple that kids could read. The pictures are very big and descriptive.

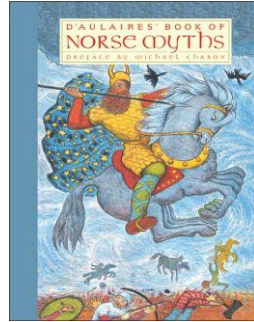
Summary: This book is about how the world came to be through the Norse gods. It talks about all the trials that they faced with enemies and all the tasks that the gods had to do on earth. The book ends with the ending of the gods' world.

Teaching Value: Literature; Myths; Norwegian culture

Ideas: Draw pictures of the characters as described by the book. Talk about how these stories might have influenced Norwegian culture

Personal Opinion: I liked this because all the myths related to each other, it was like one big story. It also started with creation and ended with the destruction of the world which I really enjoyed.

Misc: Go over vocabulary words



Swedish Folk Tales

Author(s): Elsa Beskow, Anna Wahlenberg, Alfred Smedberg, Helge Kjellin, Cyrus Graner, Helena Nyblom, P. A. Lindholm, Jeanna Oterdahl, Walter Strenstrom, Harald Ostenson, W.E. Bjork, Einar Rosenberg

Illustrator: John Baur

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Floris Books

c. 2004 **#of pages:** 235

Genre: Folk tales **ISBN:** 9780863154577

Level: Ages 7-10 **Rating:** Okay

Artwork: Oil Paintings

Words/ Picture: There are a lot of words on a page. Not very big complicated words, but they are very descriptive.

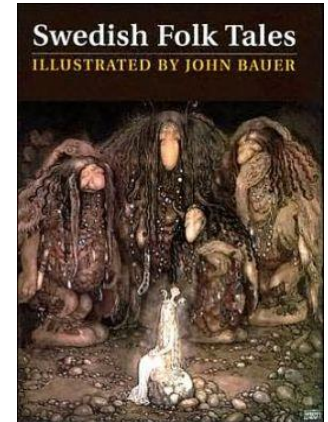
Summary: This book contains Swedish folk tales. The stories consist of troll, princes, princesses, and the common people. The majority of the stories are meant to be humorous.

Teaching Value: Literature; Folk tales

Ideas: Talk about how the stories might have influenced Swedish culture. Draw some of the characters by description from book.

Personal Opinion: This book was not my favorite. Some of the stories were very enjoyable, but others were very hard to get through.

Misc: Go over vocabulary words



The Giver

Author: Lois Lowry

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Dell Laurel-Leaf

c. 1993 **#of pages:** 179

Genre: Science Fiction **ISBN:** 044023768

Level: Fourth grade 4.5 **Rating:** Very good

Setting: A community that has been manipulated to there are extreme levels of sameness

Major Character: Jonas

Synopsis: Jonas lives in a community where there are very strict rules in order to create a sameness throughout the community. Once Jonas is assigned a job he realizes how disturbed his community really is. So he and his supervisor decide to plan an escape to a world outside the community.

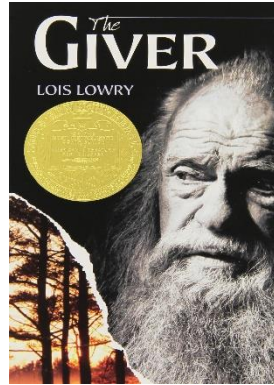
Teaching Value: Religion; Literature; Independence; Self reliance

Ideas: Have lots of class discussions throughout the book to encourage students that it is okay to interoperate the book in multiple ways with your peers.

Worldview: This author probably thinks that society today is trying to tell people what to do and how to act, creating a kind of sameness.

Personal Opinion: I really enjoyed this book because of how the author describes their world. It is so different from ours and the differences are what keeps the story moving and make you wanting more.

Misc: There is some death which could be difficult to talk about so plan on how to go about that discussion.



Fever 1793

Author: Laurie Anderson

Awards: None

School Subject: History

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

c. 2000 **#of pages:** 243

Genre: Historical Fiction **ISBN:** 068984891

Level: Ages 11-13 **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Philadelphia in 1793

Major Characters: Matilda, Grandfather, and Mother

Synopsis: The yellow fever invades Philadelphia and dramatically effects Matilda's family. Everyone in her family ended up getting the illness and they were all separated. Matilda's grandfather died and her mother and her survived.

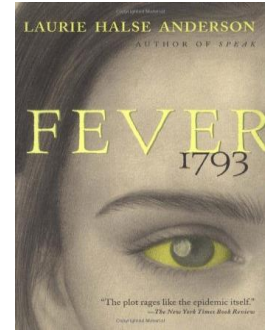
Teaching Values: History; perseverance; health

Ideas: Read after learning about the break out of yellow fever

Worldview: From how the people were supporting each other in the story the author must think that there is good in most people. She would probably also agree with that most people want to help others.

Warnings: There is a lot of death

Personal Opinion: I thought this book was very good because it was historically accurate, yet entertaining at the same. The story really pulls at a person's emotions because of all the tragedies.



Flat Stanley

Author: Jeff Brown

Illustrator: Tomi Ungerer

Awards: None

School Subject: Reading

Publisher: Harper Collins

c. 1964 **#of pages:** 40

Genre: Fantasy **ISBN:** 0060206810

Level: Ages 5-8 **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Watercolor paintings

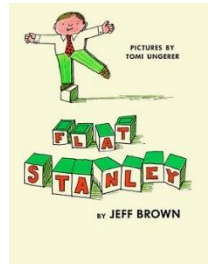
Words/ Pictures: There are a lot of words on the page. The words are not too difficult but could be hard for a child to read on their own.

Summary: Stanley's father hung a bulletin board over his bed and it fell on him in the night causing him to be flat. Stanley was now able to go into locked rooms by sliding under the door. He also visited his friends via mail because he could now be folded up. Stanley got tired of being flat so his brother inflated him with a bike pump.

Teaching Values: Friendship; Literature

Ideas: Have the children trace themselves on a piece of paper, color it, and mail it to someone in their family requesting a picture of it. This way they can see where their "Flat Stanley" has been.

Personal Opinion: I really liked this book because it was exceedingly funny. The fact that Stanley could be shipped to his friends and was later inflated by a bike pump was very hilarious.



A Wrinkle In Time

Author: Madeleine L'engle

Awards: Newbery

School Subject: Science; Math; Fantasy

Publisher: Crosswicks

c. 1962 **# of pages:** 203

Genre: Science Fiction **ISBN:** 0374386137

Level: Ages 10-13 **Rating:** Very good

Setting: A dark house with a family

Major Characters: Charles, Margaret, Calvin

Synopsis: The family's father is missing doing secret government work. Margaret and Charles's parents are both scientists that have been discovering fourth and fifth dimensions. Their father got trapped in another dimension and the children have to find him and save him.

Teaching Value: Working together; Science; Math

Ideas: After reading the book as a class have the students create what they think the other dimensions would look like.

Worldview: This author probably thinks that there are many people who are trying to create similarities throughout the world. They would want people to find their individuality and stand out in a crowd.

Personal Opinion: I really enjoyed this book because of the different dimensions in the book. It sparks creativity and lets the reader create the world that are being described.



The Baby Sister

Author: Tomie dePaola

Illustrator: Tomie dePaola

Awards: none

School Subject: Health; Literature

Publisher: G. P. Putnam's Sons

c. 1996

of pages: 32

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

ISBN: 0399229086

Level: Ages 3-8

Rating: Good

Artwork: Watercolor

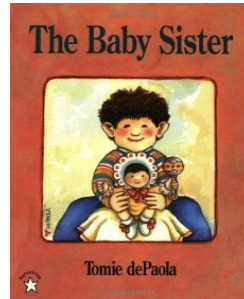
Words/Pictures: There are not too many words on a page but they are very descriptive. This may be a good book for beginning readers.

Summary: A boy's mother is pregnant with his new sibling. They all really want it to be a girl with a red ribbon in her hair. The family spends a lot of time preparing the house for the new baby. Finally the boy gets to meet the baby and it is exactly what he wanted.

Teaching Values: Family; health

Ideas: After reading the book with the children talk about younger siblings and how they prepared for them.

Personal Opinions: This book was very good because it was written from a children's perspective. Because of this it will make it more relatable for children.



Number the Stars

Author: Lois Lowry

Awards: Newbery

School Subject: History; Religion

Publisher: Bantam Doubleday Dell

c. 1989

#of pages: 137

Genre: Historical Fiction

ISBN: 0440403278

Level: 5th grade

Rating: Very Good

Setting: Copenhagen during the holocaust

Major Characters: Annemarie and Ellen

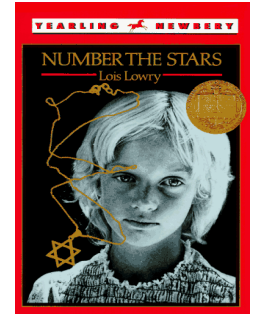
Synopsis: Annemarie's friend Ellen and her family are Jewish and the Nazi's are looking for them. Ellen stays with Annemarie's family as they help them escape to Sweden. The Nazi's try to find them multiple times but are tricked by Annemarie's family. Uncle Hennrick takes Ellen's family along with many other Jewish people to Sweden.

Teaching Values: History; Holocaust

Ideas: Read the book as a class and then research more about the holocaust. Maybe use this as an introduction to other holocaust stories like Ann Frank.

Worldview: This author probably believes in helping others to the best of our ability. She also wants to educate a young audience about the holocaust.

Personal Opinion: I loved this book because there were so many climactic events that encouraged me as the reader to keep reading. It also does a very good job of painting a picture of what it was like during that time.



The Magician's Elephant

Author: Kate DiCamillo

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Candlewick Press

c. 2009 **#of pages:** 201

Genre: Fantasy **ISBN:** 978076364419

Level: 4th grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: The city of Baltese

Major Characters: Peter, Mr. Matienne, Adel

Synopsis: Peter is an orphan boy that discovers that his sister is not dead. He goes to a fortune teller that tells him to follow the elephant to his sister. A magician makes an elephant appear that causes a lot of havoc in the city that eventually leads Peter to his sister.

Teaching Value: Perseverance; working with others; hope

Ideas: Read the book together in class. Have discussion prompts after each chapter. Break into groups and discuss the prompts then come back together as a class and discuss their ideas together.

Worldview: This author wants to tell the audience that there are good adults in the world that will help others. She also probably believes that there is always hope in every situation no matter how difficult it may be.

Personal Opinion: I really liked this book because of the plot. I think that an elephant randomly dropping out of the sky will draw children in and make them want to read it. It also gives sense a tremendous sense of hope that they can hang on to when they finish reading.



Children of Alcatraz

Author: Claire Rudolf Murphy

Awards: None

School Subject: History

Publisher: Walker & Company

c. 2006 **# of pages:** 60

Genre: Biography **ISBN:** 0802795773

Level: 4th grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Alcatraz in 1854

Major Characters: The children that live on Alcatraz

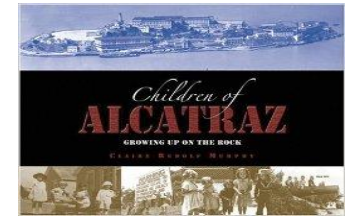
Synopsis: Families started moving to Alcatraz because of the light house, military base, the prison. Children's parent would work in these facilities and have to create an adventurous life for themselves on the island. Eventually there were more children because of the protesting done by the Native Americans. This author of this book has recorded the stories from the children that lived on the island.

Teaching Value: History

Ideas: Read the book in class. After reading the book research Alcatraz and especially the prison. Have some class discussions about the children's lives on the island and if they would have participated in the same activities the other children did.

Worldview: This author is trying to teach children through relatability from other children. He also believes that there is good in everyone since he spoke mostly of positive things about the prisoners.

Personal Opinion: I liked this book because the children will be able to relate to the people in this book since they are about the same age. I found all the historical facts to be very interesting because of how they were presented in the book.



Out of My Mind

Author: Sharon Draper

Awards: Coretta Scott King Award

School Subject: Health

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

c. 2010

#of pages: 295

Genre: Contemporary Fiction

ISBN: 9781416971702

Level: 4th grade

Rating: Very Good

Setting: A child sitting in her bedroom at her house by herself

Major Characters: Melody, Her parents, Mrs. V

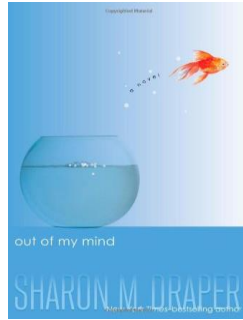
Synopsis: Melody is a fifth grade student with cerebral palsy. She has never been able to talk and gets very frustrated that she cannot communicate what she wants. Melody is able to make a transition into a regular classroom setting and can fully participate once she gets her Medi Talker. She is a victim of bullying and faces many other tragic events. At the end of the story she realizes that she is a very special individual that can accomplish anything.

Teaching Values: Health; Respect; Toleration

Ideas: Read the book as a class; talk about how we should treat others with disorders and if we know anyone with those disorders; do a research project on children with some sort of disorder

Worldview: This author believes that children with disabilities should not be pitied or bullied because of their differences. Instead they should be pushed academically and socially so they can reach their fullest potential.

Personal Opinion: I was really inspired by this book. Melody faced so many hardships and she overcame them all. It is also a very educational book about children with cerebral palsy. The language is also very descriptive about Melody's thoughts.



Lincoln A Photobiography

Author: Russell Freedmen

Awards: Newbery Medal

School Subject: History

Publisher: Clarion Books

c. 1987

#of pages: 160

Genre: Non Fiction

ISBN: 0899193803

Level: 5th grade

Rating: Very good

Setting: Civil War

Major Characters: Abraham Lincoln

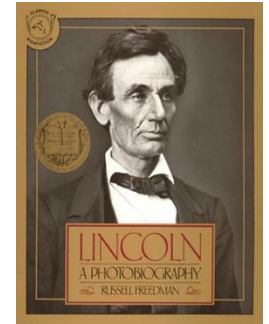
Synopsis: This book is about Abraham Lincoln's life. This including what his childhood was like and also what his presidential career was like. The story of his life is enhanced with period photographs and drawings on nearly every page.

Teaching Value: History

Ideas: Have class read the book together. They could then break off into books and talk about things that they thought were the most interesting and have them complete a worksheet about the book that I create.

Worldview: The author of this book has great admiration for Lincoln and what he accomplished so he wants others to be informed about Lincoln. He also has an appreciation for America and its history.

Personal Opinion: I liked this book because there were pictures in the book. The pictures help explain the text and entice the reader to want to learn more and keep reading.



The Tall Book

Author: Arianne Cohen

Awards: None

School Subject: Health; Science

Publisher: Bloomsbury

c. 2009 **#of pages:** 211

Genre: Non fiction **ISBN:** 9781596913080

Level: 8th grade **Rating:** Very good

Setting: New York City in the present

Major Characters: Arianne Cohen

Synopsis: Arianne Cohen has done a large amount of research as to why tall people have the struggles they do. She also has gone into the psychological aspect on how tall people think and what other people think about tall people.

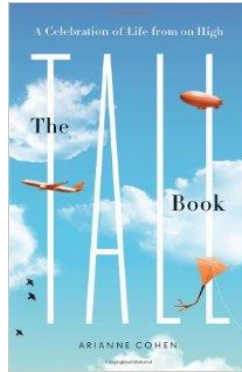
Teaching Value: The anatomy of tall people; self confidence

Ideas: I don't think I would read this with a class. I would probably use this for a student that I saw was personally struggling with their tall body image.

Worldview: This author is very frustrated with the lack of tall accommodations and thinks that this world is catered to short people.

Warnings: There is a few curse words and talk about sex. That being said, it's not too vulgar.

Personal Opinion: This book was amazing. I'm 6'0" tall and it was so relieving to know that there were other people struggling with the same problems that I have. I think this book would be very useful for a student that is having a hard time in their tall body.



Of Mice and Men

Author: John Steinbeck

Awards: New York Drama Critics' Circle Award

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Josef Weinberger Plays

c. 1943 **#of pages:** 88

Genre: Fiction; Drama **ISBN:** 0856761532

Level: 8th grade **Rating:** Very good

Setting: Banks of the Salinas River in the 1930s

Major Characters: George and Lennie

Synopsis: Of Mice and Men is about two men trying to pursue their dreams of owning their own ranch. One of the men, Lennie, is mentally handicapped so the other man, George, must take care of him. They encounter many obstacles while trying to achieve their dreams.

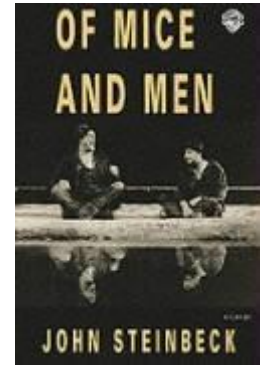
Teaching Value: Friendship; Loyalty; Hard work

Ideas: This addition of the book is written in the form of a play and so I would probably assign parts and read the book as a class. After each act we would break off into groups and discuss deeper meanings with a discussion prompt sheet I give them.

Worldview: This author could be trying to convey the difficulty of pursuing the "American dream." They also believe in hard work and the value of companionship.

Warnings: There is death twice in the book and might need to discuss Lennie's disability

Personal Opinion: This book is exceedingly entertaining and makes you want to read more. It draws so many conflicting emotions out of its readers that make them search for deeper meaning in the book.



Esperanza Rising

Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Awards: Pura Belpre Award; Jane Addams Children's Book Award

School Subject: Literature; History

Publisher: Scholastic Press

c. 2000 **# of pages:** 253

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0439120411

Level: 5th grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Ranch in Aguascalientes, Mexico during the Great Depression

Major Characters: Esperanza

Synopsis: Esperanza is a very rich girl in the beginning of the story and has most things done for her. When her father dies and Uncles attempt to steal the ranch from her and her mother they flee to the U.S. After these events her mother and she are forced to become lower class citizens and do very difficult jobs. Esperanza then takes on more independence and is able to take care of herself and family.

Teaching Value: History; Perseverance

Ideas: We would read the book as a class and then break off into small groups and discuss what has happened in each chapter and how Esperanza changes from the beginning of the book to the end.

Worldview: This author is aware of the discrimination that is geared toward Mexicans. She also is aware of the hard work that they have and how it pays off in the end.

Personal Opinion: This book is an excellent example of a child moving into a more mature role and giving it a coming of age theme. Children will be able to relate to that and encourage them to become more mature. The book itself is also very entertaining.



Betsy-Tacy

Author: Maud Hart Lovelace

Awards: none

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Harper Collins

c. 1940 **#of pages:** 116

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 978006440096

Level: 3rd Grade **Rating:** Good

Setting: Hill Street, Mankato MN in 1917

Major Characters: Betsy and Tacy

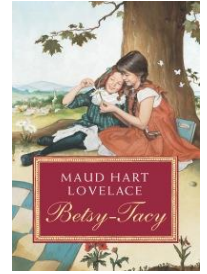
Synopsis: Betsy wanted a little girl who was her age to be her friend for so long. Tacy moved in next store, and while shy at first they both became best friends. They played together all the time and helped each other through their hardest times. At the end of the story they meet another little girl named Tib. The three girls then start their own adventures together.

Teaching Value: Friendship; Kindness

Ideas: Betsy and Tacy create a lot of their own activities, like the layers of sand. The class could make their own sand jars. There are also stories that Betsy makes up. I could read it to the children while they draw what they think it looks like.

World view: This author wants children to have fun and use their creativity to play. She also wants to children to hang on to their innocence.

Personal Opinion: I think that this book was very cute. It was really fun to read about all the little adventures that the girls went on. Betsy and Tacy bring back memories of my friends and I playing together.



Breaking Free

Author: Abby Sher

Awards: None

School Subject: Health; Geography

Publisher: Barron's Educational Services

c. 2014 **#of pages:** 224

Genre: Nonfiction **ISBN:** 9781438004532

Level: 9th grade **Rating:** Very good

Setting: Cambodia 1980, California 1990, Mexico 1976

Major Characters: Somaly Mam, Minh Dang, Maria Suarez

Synopsis: Three women share their stories about being sex trafficked. They are all in very different settings but have all suffered very traumatic events. The last part of all their stories is how they were able to get their lives back and help other victims of sex trafficking.

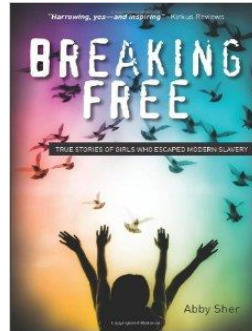
Teaching Value: Hope; Perseverance; Health; Sex Trafficking

Ideas: We would read this as a class so that I could help explain things to them. Then I would break them off into groups to discuss what they read. Last I would have the class make a school wide fundraiser to help out the organizations.

Worldview: This author wants to point out the evils of the world. She also knows that there is good people that are doing a lot of good in the world.

Warnings: This is a very graphic book and students would need to be prepared well in advanced.

Personal Opinion: This was a very empowering book. The hardships that these women faced were terrible. They were able to push through them and make successful lives for themselves helping others.



Thirteen Reasons Why

Author: Jay Asher

Awards: None

School Subject: Health; Literature

Publisher: Penguin Group

c. 2007 **#of pages:** 288

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 9781595141712

Level: 9th grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Small town called Crestmont; Present day

Major Characters: Clay Jensen and Hannah Baker

Synopsis: Hannah Baker has committed suicide and left behind seven cassette tapes. On these tapes is stories about people in her high school that lead her to end her life. All the people must listen to these tapes or else the tapes will be released to the public. In the story it is Clay Jensen who is listening to these tapes.

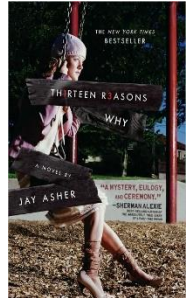
Teaching Value: Suicide; Death; Friendship

Ideas: We would read this as a class so that I could explain to them the seriousness of the book and answer any of the questions they might have. There could also be some research done as to how to help a friend that is depressed or has suicidal thoughts. The students could make posters about how to help a friend going through hard times.

Worldview: This author shows his audience that not everyone is how they appear to be. One has to make sure that they fully know a person before they put their complete trust in them.

Warnings: There is a lot of talk about suicide, partying, and sex that might need to be addressed prior to reading.

Personal Opinion: This book was rather creepy, yet kept you wanting to know more. I liked that you could look at the thoughts of the main character as she was going through each story.



The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon

Author: Mini Grey

Illustrator: Mini Grey

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

c. 2006 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0375836918

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Good

Art work: Acrylics and water color paint

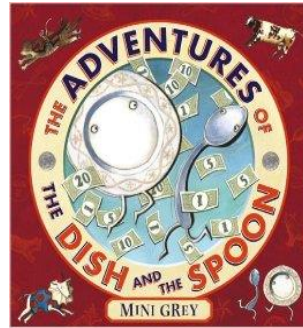
Words/ Pictures: The pages are very busy with the artwork and there are few words on a page. The words are not very difficult and could be good for a beginning reader.

Summary: This book is about a dish and a spoon that go off on a number of adventures. The dish breaks and the two get separated for a number of years. They finally reunite in an antique shop and go off on more adventures together.

Teaching Value: Friendship; Adventure

Ideas: After reading the book as a class I would read the nursery rhyme that goes along with it. We would then compare the two and see what was similar or different. Then I would ask them to make up characters of their own and tell their own stories.

Personal Opinion: I thought that this was a very fun spin on “Hey Diddle, Diddle.” It is a very cute and funny story that I think any class would enjoy.



The Stray Dog

Author: Marc Simont, Reiko Sassa

Illustrator: Marc Simont

Awards: Caldecott Award

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Harper Collins

c. 2001 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0060289333

Level: Preschool **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Watercolors

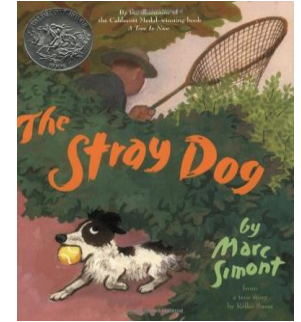
Words/ Pictures: The pictures are very descriptive and match the words well. There are a lot of words on a page compared to the age group, so this would have to be read to them.

Summary: A family goes out for a picnic when they come across a stray dog. The family falls in love with the dog and names it Willy, they do not keep the dog however. When the family returns the next week and finds the dog again, they decide to keep it.

Teaching Value: Loyalty; Pets

Ideas: After reading this book we could talk about the difference between a stray animal and the animals that they might have in their house.

Personal Opinion: The pictures in this book are very beautiful and fun to look at. The story is also very adorable and makes me think of my pets that I have.



Moses

Author: Carole Boston Weatherford

Illustrator: Kadir Nelson

Awards: Caldecott Award

School Subject: History; Religion

Publisher: Jump at the Sun

c. 2006

#of pages: 48

Genre: Historical Fiction **ISBN:** 0786851759

Level: 1st Grade **Rating:** Very Good

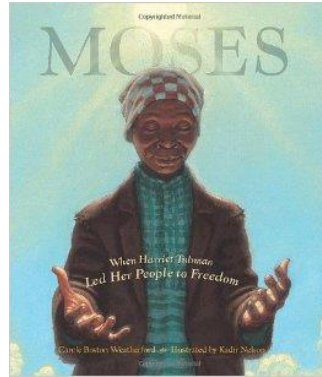
Words/ Pictures: The pictures are very descriptive along with the words. There are a lot of words on a page and could be difficult for children to read on their own.

Summary: Harriet Tubman is on her journey to freedom. Throughout her journey she is in constant contact with God asking him what she should do next. When Harriet finally reaches her destination, she knows (through talking with God), that she must go back and save her family.

Teaching Value: History; Prayer; Religion

Ideas: Read the book with the class. Talk about slaves and why it was important for them to escape. Then talk about the importance of Harriet's prayer and how that helped her to escape.

Personal Opinion: I really like this book because of the spiritual aspect. It shows people how they must rely on God even in the hardest circumstances so that he can lead us through.



The Winter Gift

Author: Deborah Turney Zagwyn

Illustrator: Deborah Turney Zagwyn

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Tricycle Press

c. 2000

#of pages: 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 1883672937

Level: 1st Grade **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Acrylic Painting

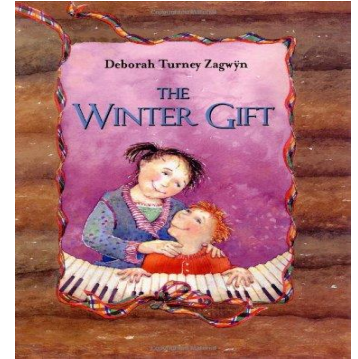
Words/ Pictures: There are a lot of words per page that would be difficult for children to read. The pictures are very descriptive to the words.

Summary: Clee's grandmother is not hosting Christmas at her house this year because she is moving. Clee is very upset and misses the atmosphere of the house. The thing that is missed the most is the piano, but the grandmother decides not to sell it. Instead, the piano is given to Clee and her brother for Christmas.

Teaching Value: Christmas; Family; Tradition

Ideas: After reading the book as a class I will ask students to share their family traditions at Christmas. We will then do a writing activity where they write their traditions and then draw a picture of their family.

Personal Opinion: This book shows the importance of family tradition and helps remind people of their family traditions. I liked the relationship between the grandmother and her grandchildren.



First Day Jitters

Author: Julie Danneberg

Illustrator: Judy Love

Awards: None

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Charlesbridge Publishing

c. 2000 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 1580890547

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Ink and watercolor paint

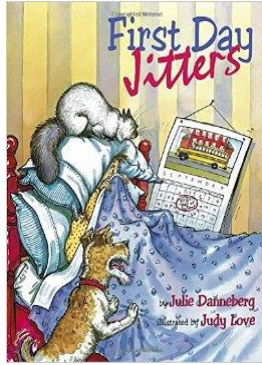
Words/ Pictures: Not a lot of difficult words on a page. Very few words on a page. The pictures fit the descriptions of the words and are very entertaining.

Summary: Mrs. Hartwell does not want to go to school on her first day. She is very nervous about all of the new things she will experience at her new school. Mr. Hartwell spends most of the morning trying to convince her to go to school. When she finally gets to school she is introduced to her class and then her day begins.

Teaching Value: Confidence

Ideas: I would read this book on the first day of school and then again on the last. The first time we would read it and then discuss as a class what our fears are on the first day. On the last day we would talk about how we have grown since then.

Personal opinion: This was a really funny book. Throughout the book the narrator makes it seem like Mrs. Hartwell is a child, but at the end is actually a teacher. I loved reading the book from that perspective.



Owl Moon

Author: Jane Yolen

Illustrated: John Schoenherr

Awards: Caldecott

School Subject: Science

Publisher: Philomel Books

c. 1987 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0399214577

Level: 1st Grade **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Watercolor

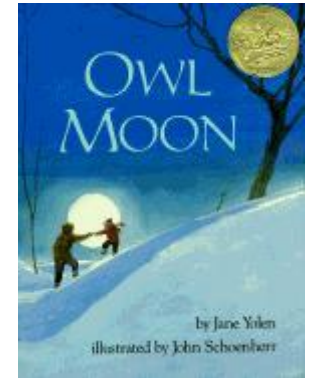
Words/ Pictures: Not many words on a page and the words are not very difficult. The pictures are very beautiful and describe the words.

Summary: A daughter and her family go out looking for owls. She is taught that one cannot make a sound and to never get your hopes up that she will see an owl. When they see an owl they can finally talk and laugh. Her father and she talk the whole walk home.

Teaching Value: Science; Biology; Owls

Ideas: After reading the book in class, we would look up information of owls. I would then like them to write down a couple facts that they learned about owls.

Personal Opinion: The pictures in this book were very pretty. I also liked the bond between the father and daughter. This would be a good book to introduce the science of owls.



Blubber

Author: Judy Blume

Awards: None

School Subject: Health

Publisher: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for Young Readers

c. 1974 **#of pages:** 153

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0440407079

Level: 4th grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Radnor, Pennsylvania in the 1970s

Major Characters: Jill, Tracy, Linda, Wendy

Synopsis: Linda gives a presentation about whales to her fifth grade class. After her presentation her classmates bully her and call her “Blubber.” Jill, her peer, at first bullies her, then finds a time to stick up for her. When this happens, the class then gangs up on Jill and bullies her. Eventually Jill stands up to her classmates and the bullying ends.

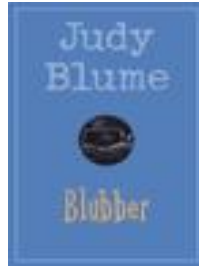
Teaching Value: Health; mental health; self- confidence; friendship

Ideas: We would read this as a class and then have a class discussion about bullying. I would then have the students look up facts about bullying (like what are the side effects of bullying?). The students would then share their findings with the class.

Worldview: This author shows that bullying is a problem, but children can fix their own problems because sometimes there isn’t an adult to handle it for them.

Personal Opinion: I thought that this was a really good book because everything was told from the student’s perspective. It has many life lessons in it like what happens when one is bullied.

Misc: This could be a good book to read if the class has problems with bullying.



White Snow Bright Snow

Author: Alvin Tresselt

Illustrator: Roger Duvoisin

Awards: Caldecott

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books

c. 1947 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 0688411614

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Acrylic paint

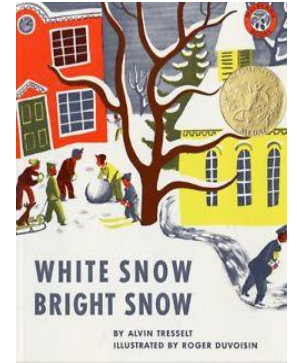
Words/ Pictures: There are not a lot of words on a page and they are not very difficult. This could be a good book for a beginning reader. The pictures are well done and describe the words.

Summary: The town is preparing for winter. They get their boots, cold medicine, and snow shovels ready for the snow. Children eagerly await the snow, and once it is here, they play all day in it. The snow eventually melts and it is spring again.

Teaching Value: Literature; Weather; winter

Ideas: I would read the book to the class. Afterwards we would talk about the changes in weather and what happens during each season. I would then have them do a writing and drawing activity about what they do to prepare themselves for each season.

Personal opinion: I liked this book because even though it mostly focused on winter you could still see the seasons changing. The illustrations are also very cute.



Mr. Wuffles!

Author: David Wiesner

Illustrator: David Wiesner

Awards: Caldecott

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Clarion Books

c. 2013 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 9780618756612

Level: 2nd grade **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Watercolor and India ink

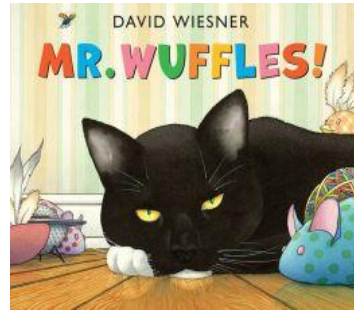
Words/ Pictures: There are almost no words in this book. The pictures are very dynamic and colorful.

Summary: Mr. Wuffles is a cat that comes across a space ship in his house. He begins to play with it and hits it around. The aliens inside are scared and try to find a way out. They finally get their engine going and make their escape.

Teaching Value: Literature; Imagination

Ideas: I would probably have the children read this book on their own. Then I want the students to write their own words to the story.

Personal Opinion: The pictures in this book were very fun to look at. I especially liked the aliens because they were very tiny and frantic looking the whole time.



Beautiful Blackbird

Author: Ashley Bryan

Illustrator: Ashley Bryan

Awards: Coretta Scott King

School Subject: Literature

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

c. 2003 **#of pages:**

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 9780689847318

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Very Good

Artwork: Paper collage

Words/ Pictures: Very few words on a page and not very difficult. This could be a good book for a beginning reader. The pictures are very vibrant.

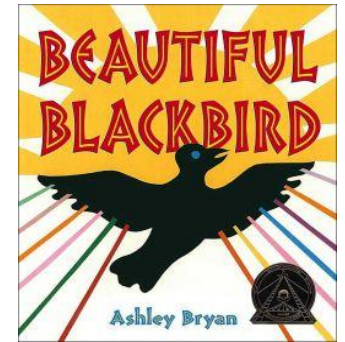
Summary: The white bird has a party and invites birds of all different colors. There is only one blackbird at the party. Everyone decides that the black bird is the prettiest and they want to be like him. The blackbird makes black paint and paints black on all the birds.

Teaching Value: Literature; Diversity; Art

Ideas: I would read this book to the class. The children could pick a scene from the book and illustrate it how they think it should be done. There is also a part where the birds dance. The students could make up their own bird dance.

Personal Opinion: I loved looking at all the pictures in the book because they were so bright and colorful. I also like how this book celebrates diversity.

Misc: If I have a diverse class this could be a good book to read.



Family Pets

Author: Lola M. Schaefer

Illustrator: Lola A. Schaefer

Awards: None

School Subject: Science; Health

Publisher: Capstone Press

c. 1999 **#of pages:** 24

Genre: Easy Reader **ISBN:** 073680255
Nonfiction

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Good

Artwork: Photography

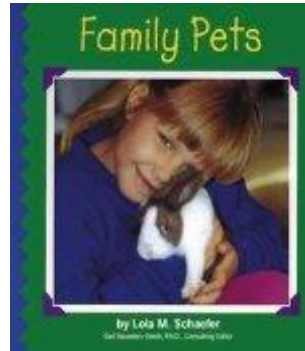
Words/Pictures: Very few words that are very easy to read. The pictures also fit the words very nicely.

Summary: This book is about family pets and the characteristics that they have.

Teaching Value: Characteristics of animals; Beginning reading for children

Ideas: I don't think that I would read this to the class. This book would probably be read by the students on their own. I would help them when they needed it.

Personal Opinion: I liked the pictures in the book because they were very realistic. This book also seems like a good beginning book for young students.



The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse

Author: Eric Carle

Illustrator: Eric Carle

Awards: None

School Subject: Art

Publisher: Penguin Young Group Readers

c. 2011 **#of pages:** 32

Genre: Fiction **ISBN:** 9780399257131

Level: Kindergarten **Rating:** Mediocre

Artwork: Acrylic Paint

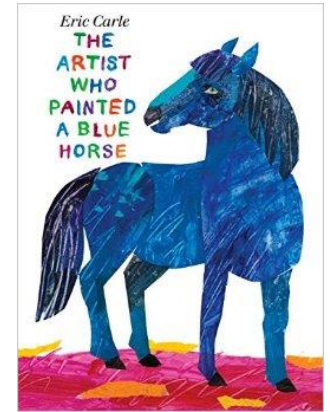
Word/Pictures: Not very many words. They are also exceedingly simple. The pictures are very colorful and vibrant.

Summary: A little boy tells us that he is an artist and then shows the readers all of the things he has painted.

Teaching Value: Creativity; Art

Ideas: After reading this to the class I would have the class paint a picture of an animal as well. I would encourage them to use colors that are not commonly used on certain objects.

Personal Opinion: The words in this book were very boring for not being an easy reader. It did have very colorful and entertaining pictures.



The Burn Journals

Author: Brent Runyon

Awards: None

School subject: Literature; Health

Publisher: Alfred A. Knopf

c. 2004 **#of pages:** 374

Genre: Nonfiction **ISBN:** 0375826211

Level: 9th Grade **Rating:** Very Good

Setting: Falls Church, Virginia

Major Characters: Brent Runyon

Synopsis: This book is about Brent Runyon's suicide survival. He had attempted to burn himself to death by lighting a gasoline soaked robe on fire. Runyon takes us through his healing process both mentally and physically.

Teaching Value: Mental health; Friends; Literature

Ideas: I would read this book with my class. Then we would talk about suicide in teens and look up research on the topic. I would then like to split the class into groups and have them present on a topic regarding mental health in teens.

Worldview: This author is pointing out the difficulties that teens have. There are many struggles that they face at a young age and have to overcome.

Personal Opinion: I really enjoyed this book because of the descriptive writing. It was very interesting to go into the mind of Brent Runyon and see what he was thinking through his process.

