

Notable Books for Ages 5 to 8

Sarah Sammis

LIBR 263-10: Materials for Children Ages 5 to 8
San José State University
April 29, 2011

Table of Contents:**Caldecott Award Books**

A Sick Day for Amos McGee 4

The House in the Night 5

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Book

Benny and Penny in The Big No-no! 6

Newbery Award Book

Frog and Toad Together 6

Coretta Scott King Award Book

Bird 8

Picture Books of Merit

Shark v. Train 9

I Dream of Trains 10

Big Red Lollipop 11

Gracias / Thanks 11

Just in Case 12

Zen Shorts 13

Cats' Night Out 14

What Can You Do with a Rebozo? 15

June 29, 1999 15

The Bog Baby 16

Teeth, Tails, & Tentacles 17

Last Night 18

Transitional Books

Bad Kitty Gets a Bath 19

We Are in a Book! 20

Realistic Fiction

The Pepins and Their Problems 20

Clementine's Letter 21

Fantasy Fiction

The Tale of Despereaux 22

Bone 1: Out from Boneville 23

Multicultural Book

Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet 24

Nursery Rhymes / Mother Goose

Pocketful of Posies 26

Poetry Collection

Where the Sidewalk Ends 26

Single Illustrated Poem

The Owl and the Pussycat 27

Multicultural Folk Tales

Maneki Neko 28

Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ear 29

Biography

Seeds of Change 30

Caldecott Award Books:

1. Stead, Philip C. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. Illustrated by Erin E. Stead. Roaring Brook Press. 2010. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44 ISBN: 1-59643-402-3

Justification for inclusion:

Caldecott Medal, 2011:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal.cfm>

Amos McGee is an elderly zookeeper dedicated to his work. He has a daily routine that involves chess with an elephant, a footrace with a tortoise and bedtime stories with an owl who is scared of the dark. When the zookeeper has to stay home with a cold, his animal friends come to repay the kindness and take care of him. Erin Stead uses woodblocks and colored pencils in her illustrations which bring to mind the classic illustrations of earlier picture books and fit the quiet mood of the story perfectly. Children will learn about the value of friendship and extended families in this 2011 Caldecott Medal winner.

Series: No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.philipstead.com/> (note: when I first accessed the site it was *not* redirecting to his blog)

Illustrator: <http://blog.erinstead.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/philipstead>

Illustrator: <http://us.macmillan.com/author/erinstead>

Interview:

Bosman, J. (2011, Jan 10) "Newbery Awarded to Debut Author" [Books section] *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/11/books/11stonewall.html> (Accessed March 30, 2011)

Themes:

Themes that could be used: zoo animals, work, friendship, caring for others.

Lesson Plan:

McClelland, K. , & Krasniewicz, K. (2003). "Caldecott kids." *School Library Journal*, 49(2), 46-47. Located using Academic Search Premier from persistent URL:

<http://libaccess.sjlibrary.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=9018344&site=ehost-live>

2. Swanson, Susan Marie. *The House in the Night*. Illustrated by Beth Krommes. Houghton Mifflin. 2008. 40 pages. Hardcover. \$14.45. ISBN: 0-618-86244-7

Justification for inclusion:

Caldecott Medal, 2009:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal.cfm>

Inspired by the nursery rhyme "There is a key to the kingdom", this pattern book builds from the opening of a door through some of the objects commonplace in going to bed. There is a light in the room, a bed in the light, a book on the bed and so forth. Each piece of light is highlighted in yellow with the remainder of the illustration being a black and white line drawing. Emergent readers should be able to predict what comes next especially as the story begins to unwind on itself. The richly detailed illustrations can also be used with children to name and count objects.

Series: No

Websites:

Author: http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org/aifolder/aipages/ai_s/swanson.html

Illustrator: <http://www.bethkrommes.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://freshfiction.com/author.php?id=21070>

Illustrator: <http://www.bethkrommes.com/biography>

Interview:

Chromey, J. (2009, November 4) Six questions we always ask: Susan Marie Swanson, children's book author. [Website] Retrieved from <http://www.minnesotareads.com/2009/11/6-questions-we-always-ask-susan-marie-swanson-childrens-book-author/> (Accessed March 30, 2011)

Themes:

Bedtime rituals, night time, sun, moon and stars.

Lesson Plan:

WCMU (n.d). The dean's list. CMU Public Broadcasting [website]. Retrieved from <http://www.wcmu.org/radio/childrensbooks/cbdlquestions-2009.html> (Accessed March 30, 2011).

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Book

Hayes, Geoffrey. *Benny and Penny in The Big No-no!* Toon Books, 2009. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$10.96. ISBN: 0-9799238-9-1

Justification for inclusion:

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award, 2010:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/geiselaward/geiselawardpastwinners/index.cfm>

Benny and Penny are curious about the new next door neighbor until they think she has stolen Benny's pail. Although it's a big "no-no" they climb the fence to fetch back the pail and end up meeting their neighbor whom they now think is a monster and a thief! It's only later that they realize their mistake and have to do the right thing and apologize. This short graphic novel with its controlled vocabulary and easy to read word bubbles will engage emerging readers. The illustrations are charming pencil drawings similar in style to Garth Williams's illustrations. This book won the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award in 2010.

Series: Benny and Penny

Websites:

Author: http://www.toon-books.com/book_benny_author.php

Biographies:

Author: (see author website)

Interview:

Taylor, M. (2010, June 29). Interview with Geoffrey Hayes, award winning author and illustrator. [Web log post]. Retrieved from: <http://bookmarkable.wordpress.com/2010/06/29/interview-with-geoffrey-hayes-award-winning-author-and-illustrator/> (Accessed March 30, 2011)

Themes:

Manners, friendship, taking responsibility, stereotypes.

Lesson Plan:

Gutierrez, P. (2008). Lesson plan for Benny and Penny in The big no-no! Toon Books [website]. Retrieved from http://www.toon-books.com/lp_bpno.php (Accessed March 30, 2011).

Newbery Award Book

Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad Together*. Harper Festival, p1999, c1971. 64 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44. ISBN: 0-694-01298-X

Justification for inclusion:

Newbery Honor, 1973:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.cfm#80s> (Also on the list of suggested Newbery books posted in the D2L FAQ forum)

Frog and Toad are two friends who are neighbors. In each chapter they do something together. In "The List" Toad makes a list of everything he plans to do in the day. It includes things like Wake

Up, Get Dressed, Have Lunch and so forth. When the list blows out of his hand he feels like he can't chase after it because it's not in his list. Frog helps him make a new list, written in the dirt with a stick. The relationship between Frog and Toad is affectionate and humorous and they make leaps of logic that children will recognize. Lobel's playful watercolors use only shades of green and brown along with white and black to match Frog and Toad's amphibian skin tones and to give a sense of the swamp or pond they live near.

Series: I Can Read Book, Level 2.

Websites:

Author:

<http://www.harpercollinschildrens.com/Kids/AuthorsAndIllustrators/ContributorDetail.aspx?CId=12406>

Obituary: <http://www.nytimes.com/1987/12/06/obituaries/arnold-lobel-author-illustrator.html>

Biographies:

Author: http://www.parents-choice.org/article.cfm?art_id=35&the_page=editorials

Interview:

Rollin, L. (1984). The astonished witness disclosed: an interview with Arnold Lobel. *Children's Literature in Education* 15(4). p. 191-197. DOI: 10.1007/BF01137182. Retrieved via Springer Link and available via persistent URL: <http://www.springerlink.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/content/g42377n586lu2013/> (Accessed April 18, 2011).

Themes:

Friendship, problem solving, frogs and toads, bravery.

Lesson Plans:

Scholastic (n.d.) Frog and Toad Together extension activities. Retrieved from <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=514> (Accessed April 18, 2011).

Wild Swan Theater (n.d.) Study guide for Frog and Toad. [pdf]. Retrieved from: <http://old.wildswantheater.org/documents/FrogandToad.pdf> (Accessed April 18, 2011)

Other Awards

Elliott, Zetta. *Bird*. Illustrated by Shadra Strickland. Lee & Low Books, 2008. 42 pages. Hardcover. \$19.95. ISBN: 1-60060-241-X

Justification for Inclusion:

Coretta Scott King / John Steptoe New Talent Award, 2009:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/ckbookawards/johnsteptoe.cfm>

Bird tells the story Mehkai, given the nickname "Bird" by his grandfather by how he would peep as a baby. Bird through his narrative and illustrations of the urban landscape recounts the last years of his brother as he lost his battle against drug addiction. Bird respects his brother's artistic skills (used primarily through tagging) and tries to fix things in his own drawings. Strickland's watercolors blend with the line drawings, presumably done by Bird to recreate the story he is telling. The book deals gently but realistically with drug abuse and broken families.

Series: No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.zettaelliott.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.shadrastrickland.com/>

Book: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/BIRD/28813080627>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.zettaelliott.com/bio.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.shadrastrickland.com/info/info.html>

Interviews:

The Brown Bookshelf (2007, February 7). Zetta Elliot. [Web log post].

Retrieved from <http://thebrownbookshelf.com/2009/02/07/zetta-elliott-2/> (Accessed March 31, 2011).

Gordon, R. L. (2011, February 13) The gist of freedom. [Audio file].

Retrieved from: <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/theantiqueeshow/2011/02/13/childrens-book-authorprofessor-zetta-elliott-talks-with-r-lee-gordon> (Accessed March 30, 2011).

Themes:

Aesthetics (art vs reality), addiction, family, death and loss. What is the purpose of art? Is it a way of "fixing the world?" as Bird argues or is it a way of recording the world for what it is? Does art belong in a museum (as Bird's grandfather says) or on the street (as Marcus says)?

Lesson Plans:

Bird (2010, December 7). Teaching tools for Bird. [Web log post]. Retrieved from

https://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=475691424665 (Accessed March 31, 2011)

Teaching for Change (n.d.) Upper elementary book list. Teaching for change: Building social justice starting in the classroom. [Website]. Retrieved from

<http://www.teachingforchange.org/publications/lists/upperelementary> (Accessed March 31, 2011).

Picture Books of Merit:

1. Barton, Chris. *Shark vs. Train*. Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld. Little Brown, 2010. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44. ISBN: 0-316-00762-5

Justification for inclusion:

Children's Choice Book Awards Finalist, 2011: <http://www.bookweekonline.com/voting/k-2>

It's the story of a rivalry between a shark and train. They are constantly competing... racing, diving, playing video games and all sorts of other ways. Sometimes shark wins. Sometimes train wins. Sometimes both do. And sometimes neither does. The illustrations completely sell this outlandish story. When I first heard the title I ignored the book thinking it sounded too ridiculous or too gimmicky. But the pictures of them competing are as silly and wonderful as a classic Warner Bros.'s cartoon. Children can be asked to keep score to see who wins (or if there is a tie) in the end.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.chrisbarton.info/>

Illustrator: <http://www.tomlichtenheld.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.chrisbarton.info/bio.html>

Illustrator: <http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Tom-Lichtenheld/18549740/biography>

Interview:

Kirkus Review (2011). Kirkus Q&A: Chris Barton. Retrieved from:

http://www.texasbookfestival.org/Chris_Barton_Interview.php (Accessed April 8, 2011).

Themes:

Competition. Toys. Sharks. Trains.

Lesson Plans:

Little, Brown Co (n.d.) Shark vs. Train downloads. Hachette Book Group [website]. Retrieved from: <http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/sharkvstrain/downloads.html> (Accessed April 8, 2011)

Scholastic (n.d.). Courage and confidence. Retrieved from: http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/teachers/connections/pdf/CourageandConfidence_1.pdf (Accessed April 8, 2011)

2. Johnson, Angela. *I Dream of Trains*. Illustrated by Loren Long. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2003. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$15.29. ISBN: 0-689-82609-5

Justification for inclusion:

Golden Kite Award, 2004: <http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Golden-Kite-Award-Recipients>

A young sharecropper along the Mississippi listens for the whistle of the 382 and dreams about riding across the country with Casey Jones and Sim Webb. The book concludes with the boy

thinking about Jones's death and wondering if any other train whistle will carry the same note of hope for him. Long's gorgeous oil painting illustrations bring movement and drama into the book and would do well for being read to a group. The endnotes include historical information about Casey Jones and sharecropping which could serve as a starting point for lesson planning.

Series:

No

Websites

Author: http://www.visitingauthors.com/printable_pages/johnson_angela_print_info.html

Illustrator: <http://www.lorenlong.com/>

Book: http://www.lorenlong.com/trains/i_dream_of_trains.html

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.notablebiographies.com/news/Ge-La/Johnson-Angela.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.lorenlong.com/bio.html>

Interview:

The Brown Bookshelf (2009, February 8). Interview with Angela Johnson [Web log post].

Retrieved from: <http://thebrownbookshelf.com/2009/02/08/angela-johnson/> (Accessed April 1, 2011)

Themes

Hope, dreams, sharecropping, trains, family, Casey Jones and the dreams parents have for their children.

Lesson Plan

Salvadore, M. and Hepler, S. (2005). Things we share: Themes for black history month.

Retrieved from: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/51> (Accessed April 1, 2011).

3. Khan, Rukhsana. *Big Red Lollipop*. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Viking, 2010. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44. ISBN: 0-670-06287-1

Justification for inclusion:

- ALSC Notable Children's Books for Younger Readers, 2011:
<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/news/ala/alsc-announces-2011-notable-childrens-books>
- Charlotte Zolotow Award, 2011:
<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=221>

The girl in the story is invited to her first ever birthday party but her middle sister wants to go. Their mother not aware of the birthday party celebration says she can only go if her sister can go too. Embarrassed by determined to go to the party she agrees to take her sister along. Things don't go well for either girl and she continues to resent having to take her sister along well after the party. It's only until the middle sister gets her own chance to go to a birthday party that the oldest sister can step in and reconcile with her. Sophie Blackall's color pencil illustrations present a positive depiction of a Muslim family. On some of the pages, she uses top down illustrations to

bring a youthful energy to the story. This book would be good for both immigrant children and parents to learn about birthday parties and for families who are hosting birthday parties to get a new perspective.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.rukhsanakhan.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.sophieblackall.com/frameintro.html>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.rukhsanakhan.com/about/biography.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.sophieblackall.com/Bio.html>

Interviews:

Canada Video (2007) Rukhsana Khan interview. Worlds Aloud 2007 [Video]. Retrieved from: <http://www.blingcheese.com/video-14/rukhsana.htm>.

Pieters, V. (2010, May 10). Interview with Sophie Blackall. [Web log post]. Retrieved from: http://veerle.duoh.com/design/article/interview_with_sophie_blackall (Accessed April 1, 2011).

Themes:

Family, sisters, birthdays, parties, Arab-Americans, cultural differences.

Lesson Plan:

Anderson, K. (2011, January 1). Immigration: Coming to America. *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from: http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/printissuecurrentissue/887998-427/immigration_coming_to_america.html.csp (Accessed April 1, 2011)

4. Mora, Pat. *Gracias / Thanks*. Translated by Adriana Dominguez. Illustrated by John Parra. Lee & Low Books, 2009. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$17.95. ISBN: 1-60060-258-4

Justification for Inclusion:

- Golden Kite Award, 2010: <http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Golden-Kite-Award-Recipients>
- Pura Belpré Honor Book, 2010: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast/index.cfm>

Told in both Spanish and English, *Gracias / Thanks*, is a list of things a boy is grateful for. The list includes family, friends, nature, and other things from his daily life. John Parra's playful acrylic paintings capture the joy the boy experiences through out the book. After reading the book, children could be asked to list what they are thankful for.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.patmora.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.johnparraart.com/>

Translator: <http://adrianadominguez.blogspot.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.patmora.com/childbio.htm>

Illustrator: <http://www.johnparraart.com/bio.htm>

Interview

Scholastic students. (n.d.) Hispanic heritage: Pat Mora interview transcript. Scholastic Teachers. [Website]. Retrieved from: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hispanic/morascript.htm> (Accessed April 1, 2011).

Themes

Hispanic heritage, thankfulness, family life, friendship.

Lesson Plan:

Lawrence, J. (2009). Multicultural author resource packet: Pat Mora. Web log post] Retrieved from <http://lawrencejand.wordpress.com/pat-mora/> (Accessed April 1, 2011)

5. Morales, Yuyi. *Just in Case: a Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. 34 pages. Hardcover. \$15.26. ISBN: 1-59643-329-9

Justification for inclusion

Pura Belpré Medal for Illustration, 2009:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast/index.cfm>

Sr. Calavera is so excited about Grandma Beetle's birthday party he forgets to get her a gift. Zelmiro the Ghost reminds him to get a gift and Sr. Calavera puts together nearly a complete list of gifts from the Spanish alphabet. Disaster strikes, though, when he crashes his bike and all the gifts are scattered and broken. What will he do now? The story teaches most of the Spanish alphabet (including CH, LL, and Ñ but not RR) and elements of Mexican-American culture both through the colorful illustrations and through the choices of gifts. The story wraps together the themes of life, death, birthdays and families into this magical realism picture book.

Series:

Yes. See also *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*.

Websites

Author: <http://www.yuyimorales.com/2.htm>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.redroom.com/author/yuyi-morales/bio>

Interview:

Fain, J. and López-Robinson, J. (2010, February 01). Interview with Yuyi Morales. [Web log post]. Retrieved from <http://wowlit.org/blog/2010/02/01/interview-with-yuyi-morales/> (Accessed April 4, 2011).

Themes:

Spanish language and alphabet, Mexican-American culture, birthdays.

Lesson Plan:

Teaching Books (n.d.) Yuyi Morales. [video presentation] TeachingBooks.net. Retrieved from http://www.teachingbooks.net/spec_athr.cgi?pid=5700&a=1 (Accessed April 5, 2011).

6. Muth, Jon J. *Zen Shorts*. Scholastic Press, 2005. 40 pages. Hardcover. \$15.29. ISBN: 0-439-33911-1

Justification for inclusion:

Charlotte Zolotow Honor Book, 2006:

<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=221>

Siblings Addy, Michael and Karl are curious about their new neighbor, a panda named Stillwater. They visit his home with questions and each one is answered with a story that illustrates a lesson from Buddhism or Taoism. The stories themselves are accompanied with paintings done in a style inspired by Sengai Gibbon. The "real world" part of the book is done in vibrant water colors. After reading the book children can be asked to compare and contrast the different artistic styles.

Series:

See also *Zen Ties*, 2009

Websites

Author: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3736>

Biographies:

Author: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_J_Muth

Interview:

Duncan, A. (2008). Jon J. Muth interview. Indie Bound. [Website]. Retrieved from: <http://www.indiebound.org/author-interviews/muthjonj> (Accessed April 1, 2011).

Themes

Japanese culture, Buddhism, Taoism, meditation, nature, friendship, patience.

Lesson Plan:

Da Volt, J. and Berry, M. (2008). Zen Shorts guide. Retrieved from <http://merrybee.info/ba/zen.html> (Accessed April 1, 2011).

7. Stutson, Caroline. *Cats' Night Out*. Illustrated by Jon Klassen. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2010. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$13.59. ISBN: 1-41694-005-7

Justification for inclusion:

Governor General's Literary Awards, Children's Literature - Illustration, 2010:
<http://www.canadacouncil.ca/news/releases/2010/b1129343241245722000.htm>

Over the course of a night, ten pairs of well dressed cats come out to dance to night-time jazz melodies along Easy Street. Each page spread has cats to count and a hidden number to find. The rhymes are in keeping with the jazzy music the cats are said to be listening to. Children can learn to count by twos and will be introduced to different names of dances. Klassen's illustrations uses black and white and earth tones to give a sense of night while relying heavily on patterns and repetition. It's eye catching but good for hiding the number.

Series:

No.

Websites:

Author: <http://carolinestutson.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.burstofbeaden.com/> and <http://jonklassen.blogspot.com/> (blog)

Biographies:

Author: <http://authors.simonandschuster.net/Caroline-Stutson/19020774/biography>

Illustrator: <http://authors.simonandschuster.com/J-Klassen/49779942/biography>

Interview:

Williams, N. (n.d.) Interview with Jon Klassen. Retrieved from:
<http://www.illustrationmundo.com/wp/417> (Accessed April 5, 2011)

Themes:

Styles of dance, cats, counting, jazz

Lesson Plans:

CanTeach (n.d.) Dance collage. Retrieved from: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/fadance5.html> (Accessed April 5, 2011)

PBS Kids (2005). Jazz lesson plans. Retrieved from: <http://pbskids.org/jazz/lesson/index.html> (Accessed April 5, 2011)

8. Tafolla, Carmen. *What Can You Do with a Rebozo?* Illustrated by Amy Cordova. Tricycle Press, 2008. 25 pages. \$12.70. ISBN: 1-58246-220-8

Justification for inclusion:

Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor, 2009:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast/>

What Can You Do with a Rebozo? shows through examples what a rebozo is (a long, sturdy scarf worn by women in Mexico) and how it can be used. The girl in the book uses her rebozo for a superhero cape, a slide for her toys while the women in her family use it for a head scarf, a table cloth, a rag to clean up spills. Sometimes its used as a blanket or a sling to carry children. Amy Cordova's strong use of primary colors draws the eyes in, especially to the red rebozo as it is transformed for so many different uses. Children will learn about Mexican culture and family life.

Series:

Yes. See also: *What Can You Do With a Paleta?* (2009).

Websites

Author: <http://www.carmentafolla.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.thetaosgallery.com/AmyCordova/amycordova.html>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.carmentafolla.com/resume.html>

Illustrator: see illustrator interview for biographical information.

Interview:

Láinez, René Colato (2008, July 30). Interview with author Carmen Tafolla. [Web log post].

Retrieved from: <http://labloga.blogspot.com/2008/07/interview-with-author-carmen-tafolla.html> (Accessed April 5, 2011).

Themes:

Families, Mexican culture

Lesson Plan

Texas Librarian (2009, May 15). What can you do with a rebozo? [Blog]. Retrieved from:

<http://www.texaslibrarian.com/reading-comprehension-strategies/what-can-you-do-with-a-rebozo-by-carmen-tafolla/> (Accessed April 5, 2011)

9. Wiesner, David. *June 29, 1999*. Clarion Books, 1999. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$13.60. ISBN: 0-395-59762-5

Justification for inclusion:

Golden Duck Award, Picture Book, 1993: <http://www.goldenduck.org/winners.html>

Holly Evans is working on her science project in her own unique way. Rather than sprouts in paper cups, she's launching hers into the atmosphere on floating pallets. She has a theory that sending seedlings up into the stratosphere might affect how they grow. Shortly after she sends them floating away, giant vegetables end up raining down on different parts of the United States. The illustrations are Wiesner's classic surreal watercolors, done in the style of agriculture advertising from the turn of the last century. Children will learn about vegetables, geography and the scientific method.

Series:

No.

Websites

Author: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/wiesner/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/wiesner/biography.html>

Interview:

Bodett, Tom (n.d.). David Warner on creativity: an interview with Tom Bodett, host of Loose Leaf Book Company. Retrieved from: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/wiesner/interviews/inter.shtml> (Accessed April 8, 2011).

Themes:

Science projects, geography, agriculture, science fiction.

Lesson Plans:

Fink, Lisa Storm (n.d.) Comics in the classroom as an introduction to narrative structure.

Retrieved from <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/comics-classroom-introduction-narrative-223.html> (Accessed April 18, 2011)

Helm, LaDonna (n.d.) It doesn't have to end that way: Using prediction strategies with literature.

Retrieved from <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/doesn-have-that-using-87.html> (Accessed April 8, 2011)

10. Willis, Jeanne. *The Bog Baby*. Illustrated by Gwen Millward. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44. ISBN: 0-375-86176-9

Justification for inclusion:

Victoria and Albert Book and Book Cover Illustration Award, 2008:

http://www.vam.ac.uk/activ_events/events/illustration_awards/publishedcat/2008-book/index.php?section=2&postIndex=86&postSearch=&category=&start=84&show=12

A pair of siblings find a bog baby and bring it home for a pet. They keep their find secret until it gets sick. Not knowing what to do, they turn to their mother who helps them do the right thing by returning it to the bog. Millard's delicate illustrations capture the magic of the bog and fragility of the little bog monster. Children and adults can discuss the difficulties of bringing any wild creature home.

Series:

No.

Websites:

Author: <http://www.jeannewillis.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.gwenmillward.co.uk/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.puffin.co.uk/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,1000017939,00.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.gwenmillward.co.uk/aboutme.html>

Themes:

Wild life, magical creatures, nature, sisters.

Lesson Plan:

S.J. (1999, April 18). #1002: Outdoor activities/nature. Retrieved from:

<http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/1002.html> (Accessed April 8, 2011)

11. Wormell, Christopher. *Teeth, Tails, & Tentacles: An Animal Counting Book*. Running Press, 2004. 58 pages. Hardcover. \$16.10. ISBN: 0-7624-2100-2

Justification for inclusion:

New York Times Best Illustrated Books, 2004:

http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2004/11/10/books/20041114_BEST_SLIDESHOW_4.html

Christopher Wormell makes his own woodcuts to create bold illustrations with eye catching details ready for counting. The book goes through twenty different animals and invites children to count one two twenty by looking at specific details on an animal (the spots of a ladybug or the diamonds on a rattlesnake). The book includes an appendix that gives facts about each of the animals as well as the author's artistic process.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.chriswormell.com/homewhite.html>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.theartworksinc.com/biography/wormellc.html>

Interview:

Danielson, J. (2010, March 18). Seven questions over breakfast with Chris Wormell. [Web log post]. Retrieved from: <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=1906> (Accessed April 9, 2011)

Themes:

Counting, wild animals, endangered species, animal anatomy

Lesson Plan:

Pikes Peak Library District (n.d.). Grow a reader [pdf]. Retrieved from <http://more.ppld.org:8080/Kids/grownups/growareader/countonme.pdf> (Accessed April 9, 2011)

12. Yum, Hyewon. *Last Night*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2008. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$13.56. ISBN: 0-374-34358-6

Justification for inclusion:

Golden Kite Award for Illustration, 2009: <http://www.scbwi.org/Pages.aspx/Golden-Kite-Award-Recipients>

This wordless picture book tells the story of a night time adventure of a young girl sent to bed for not eating her supper. She and her stuffed bear, now a real bear, go out into the night time forest to explore and play. Near sunrise, her animal friends lead her back to the safety of her bed. Hyewon Yum's linocut illustrations use a limited pallet of strong colors to draw in the eye. Children can be asked to write or tell their own story based on the pictures. They can also discuss dreams they've had.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.hyewonyum.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.hyewonyum.com/> (click on bio)

Interview:

Danielson, J. (2011, February 17). Seven questions over breakfast with Hyewon Yum. [Web log post]. Retrieved from: <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=2080> (Accessed April 9, 2011)

Themes:

Dreams, toys, imagination, adventures

Lesson Plan:

Blair, C., Brasfield, A., Crenshaw, K., & Mosedale, A. (2011). School Librarians: Bridging the Language Gap for English Language Learners. *School Library Monthly*, 27(6), 34-7. Retrieved from Library Lit & Inf Full Text database at persistent URL:

<http://libaccess.sjlibrary.org/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e hh&AN=58657158&site=ehost-live>

Transitional Books

1. Bruel, Nick. *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath*. Roaring Press Books, 2008. 125 pages. Hardback. \$12.74. ISBN: 1-59643-341-8

Justification for inclusion:

Gryphon Honor Book, 2009: <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/gryphon.html>

In this third installment of the Bad Kitty series, Nick Bruel writes now to transitional readers, offering them a book that's somewhere between a standard chapter book and a graphic novel. It's time for Bad Kitty to have a bath, if her owners can survive her furious attempts to get away from being washed. Bruel's comedic illustrations that are heavy on body language and exaggerated facial expressions bring this book to life. They stand alone well enough that *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath* could easily have been a wordless graphic novel. Along with the humorous advice (like wear a suit of armor) the book has practical advice for bathing cats at the close of each chapter.

Series:

Bad Kitty

Websites:

Author: <http://www.nickbruel.com/>

Series: <http://badkittybooks.squarespace.com/>

Biography:

Author: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=199118>

Interview:

Scholastic. Nick Bruel, *Poor Puppy*. [Video] Retrieved from: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/media.jsp?id=672> (Accessed April 12, 2011)

Themes:

Cat care, pet care, responsibility

Lesson Plans:

Bad Kitty Books (n.d.) Extras. Retrieved from <http://badkittybooks.squarespace.com/extras/> (Accessed April 12, 2011)

Humane Society of the United States (n.d.) Responsible pet care. [Kids News].

Retrieved from: http://www.kindnews.org/teacher_zone/lesson_plans.asp (Accessed April 12, 2011).

2. Willems, Mo. *We Are in a Book!* Hyperion Books, 2010. 57 pages. Hardcover. \$7.64. ISBN: 1-42313-308-0

Justification for inclusion:

Griffin Award Book, 2011: <http://ccb.lis.illinois.edu/gryphon.html>

Gerald the Elephant and his friend Piggie return in their thirteenth humorous book for transitional readers. In this book the friends realize they are being read. First they panic over being watched. Then they realize they can have fun by making the reader say things, if he or she is reading aloud. Later they begin to worry because the book is coming to a close and they are running out of time. They only have a few pages to come up with a solution! Mo Willems uses a cartoon like style with a limited number of colors to make the illustrations as simple as possible. With an emphasis on facial expressions instead of ornate design, the characters can engage with young readers and encourage them to read aloud and to think about how stories are constructed.

Series:

Elephant and Piggie

Websites:

Author: <http://www.mowillems.com/>

Book: <http://www.pigeonpresents.com/books.aspx>

Biography:

Author: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mo_Willems

Interview:

Reading Rockets (n.d.) A video interview with Mo Willems. [Video]. Retrieved from <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/willems> (Accessed April 12, 2011)

Themes:

Friendship, reading, story telling, humor, books

Lesson Plans:

Curators of the University of Missouri. (2009). Author study: Mo Willems. eThemes. [Website]. Retrieved from <http://ethemes.missouri.edu/themes/1802> (Accessed April 12, 2011)

Realistic Fiction

1. Horvath, Polly. *The Pepins and Their Problems*. Illustrated by Marilyn Hafner. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004. 179 pages. Hardcover. \$13.60. ISBN: 0-374-35817-6

Justification for inclusion:

Essentials of Children's Literature, p. 159.

The Pepin family: Mr. and Mrs. Pepin, children Irving and Petunia, cat Miranda and dog Roy and their "very fine neighbor" Mr. Bradshaw face a series of problems. As they are in contact

with author Polly Horvath, they ask for help from readers of the book. The problems include being stuck on the roof without a ladder, a cow who gives lemonade instead of milk, the arrival of a long lost relative and a neighbor contest between Mr. Bradshaw and retired post office worker, Miss Poopenstat. The interaction between author and reader is similar to that in *The Tale of Despereaux*. Hafner's line drawings peppered through out the book add to the humor of situation, usually illustrating the most outlandish moment in a chapter. The interaction with the readers teaches about the mechanics of fiction as well as geography and vocabulary.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.pollyhorvath.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.harpercollins.com/author/microsite/About.aspx?authorid=12179>

Biography:

Author: <http://www.pollyhorvath.com/about.html>

Interview:

Kenower, B. (2009, May 6). Interview with Polly Horvath. [video] *Author Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/author-magazine/id281775395> (Accessed April 18, 2011).

Themes:

Problem solving, neighbors, humorous stories, geography, families

Lesson Plan:

Michigan Citizenship Collaborative Curriculum (2010, April 30). Unit 4: How do I get along with others. *Kindergarten Social Studies: Myself and Others*. [pdf]. Retrieved from: http://members.scope.oakland.k12.mi.us/docs/SS/SS000400/SS000400_unit.pdf

2. Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine's Letter*. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. 150 pages. Hardcover. \$12.74. ISBN: 0-7868-3884-1

Justification for inclusion:

Christopher Award, Books for young People, Ages 8 to 10, 2009:
<http://www.christophers.org/Page.aspx?pid=966>

Clementine is having a rough week. Her beloved third grade teacher, Mr D'Matz has been nominated for a year long trip to an archeological dig in Egypt. To make things worse Clementine just can't seem to do anything right for the substitute. At home she wants to get her mother a special box to keep her art supplies but her money making scheme has upset nearly ever single person in the apartment her father manages. Frazee's line drawings capture Clementine's every emotions as things go from bad to worse, helping to make her a sympathetic and likable character. The book highlights the importance of routine, ground rules, good

communication and the adjustment period needed for anyone starting a new job or for students to get used to a new teacher.

Series:

Clementine

Websites:

Author: <http://www.sarapennypacker.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.marlafraze.com/>

Biographies:

Author: http://www.bookbrowse.com/biographies/index.cfm?author_number=1524

Illustrator: <http://authors.simonandschuster.com/Marla-Fraze/706419/biography>

Interviews:

Reading Rockets (n.d.) A video interview with Marla Frazee. [video]. Retrieved from <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/fraze> (Accessed April 19, 2011)

Smith, C. L. (2010, September 29). Author interview: Sara Pennypacker on the Clementine series. [Web log post]. Retrieved from:

<http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/2010/09/author-interview-sara-pennypacker-on.html> (Accessed April 19, 2011).

Themes:

Substitute teachers, learning new rules, privacy, school fiction, families, neighbors

Lesson Plan:

edHelper.com. (n.d.) Clementine's Letter by Sara Pennypacker literature unit (grades 2-4).

Retrieved from: http://www.edhelper.com/books/Clementines_Letter.htm (Accessed April 19, 2011)

Fantasy Fiction

1. DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*. Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering. Candlewick Press, 2003. 267 pages. Hardcover. \$15.29 ISBN: 0-7636-1722-9

Justification for inclusion:

Newbery Award Medal, 2004:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.cfm>

Despereaux Tilling is the only surviving mouse from his parents' last litter. His ears are too big and he had his eyes open at birth, something that just isn't done. He continues doing things that shouldn't be done including talking to the princess and letting the king touch him. For his crimes against mousedom he's sentenced to the dark to be killed by the rats in the dungeon. He is but one of three characters who doesn't fit in where life has put him. His story is woven together with

the other two: Migs and Rosuro. While teaching about being true to ones self, author Dicamillo takes the time to make the narrative conventions (such as flashbacks) she's using obvious. Through her "dear reader" asides she teaches children how more complex stories are told, guiding them through the process.

Series: No.

Websites:

Author: <http://www.katedicamillo.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.timothybasileringart.com/>

Biographies:

Author: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_DiCamillo

Illustrator: <http://www.timothybasileringart.com/bio.htm>

Interview:

Brown, J. (2004, March 30). *The Tale of Despereaux: A conversation with Kate DiCamillo. The News Hour with Jim Lehrer* [transcript and video]. Retrieved from: http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/entertainment/jan-june04/tale_03-30.html (Accessed March 30, 2011).

Themes:

Being true to one's self, grief and the story telling process. Children could be asked to tell their own fairy tale just as Despereaux does when he's getting ready to save the princess.

Lesson Plans:

Berry, M. (2008, January 25). Book and author literature guides for *The Tale of Despereaux*.

Retrieved from <http://www.merrybee.info/ba/talelist.html> (Accessed March 31, 2011).

Scholastic (2010). Find yourself in a story. [PDF] Retrieved from [http://](http://www.thetaleofdespereauxmovie.com/splash/downloads/scholastic/Despereaux_Scholastic.pdf)

www.thetaleofdespereauxmovie.com/splash/downloads/scholastic/Despereaux_Scholastic.pdf (Accessed March 31, 2011)

2. Smith, Jeff. *Bone 1: Out from Boneville*. Color by Steve Hamaker. Graphix, 2005. 138 pages. Hardcover. \$18.69. ISBN: 0-439-70623-8

Justification for inclusion:

Eisner Award, 1994: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Eisner_Award_winners

Fone Bone follows cousins Smiley and Phoney into the desert when Phoney is run out of town. The trio end up in a valley inhabited by a dragon and rat like creatures. They are befriended by a young woman named Thorn who offers them a home during the long winter season. Thorn's dreams of a long ago revolution hold the key to events unfolding in the present day that will pit the rat creatures against the humans. The series was originally published as a black and white comic in the 1990s and was reissued by Scholastic's Graphix imprint with the original illustrations colorized by Steve Hamaker. While the Bone cousins lose their obvious bone shape

with the addition of color, the rest of the series benefits from addition of Hemker's dramatic use of color to set the mood. While the rest of the series is listed as being for fourth grade and higher, *Library Journal* says *Out from Boneville* is for grades 3 and higher. For children looking for an introduction to high fantasy the slapstick humor and visual jokes will entertain while preparing children for classics like *The Hobbit* or the *Chronicles of Prydain*.

Series:

Bone

Websites:

Author: <http://www.boneville.com/>

Colorist: <http://steve-hamaker.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=2940>

Interview:

P., K. (2002, December 11). 10 questions: Jeff Smith. *IGN*. [Movie features]. Retrieved from: <http://movies.ign.com/articles/379/379985p1.html> (Accessed April 19, 2011).

Themes:

Fantasy fiction, dragons, family, adventures

Lesson Plans:

Bergland, D. (n.d.) Comic express: A method for expressing ideas in comic form. *National Association of Comics Art Educators*. Retrieved from http://www.teachingcomics.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=143:comic-express-a-method-for-expressing-ideas-in-comic-form&catid=36:Lesson%20Plans&Itemid=57 (Accessed April 19, 2011).

State Library of Ohio. (n.d.) Bone vol. 1: Out from Boneville by Jeff Smith. Retrieved from <http://oh.webjunction.org/ohctroboneville1> (Accessed April 19, 2011).

Multicultural Book:

Salisbury, Graham. *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet*. Illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers. Wendy Lamb Books, 2009. 152 pages. Hardcover. \$10.96. ISBN: 0-385-73701-7

Justification for inclusion:

- Bank Street's Children's Book Committee Best Children's Books of the Year, 2010: <http://www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/best2010.html>
- *Essentials of Children's Literature*, p. 234 (Graham Salisbury is recommended as an author of Hawaiian books; I chose a more recent book that is age appropriate and features a multicultural set of characters)

Calvin Coconut lives in Kailua, Hawaii on the island of O'ahu. He's about to start 4th grade and along with it a whole new set of responsibilities, including giving up his bedroom to a girl from Texas who is moving in while her family deals with some trouble at home. At school Calvin and his friends have a new classmate, a haole (white boy) from Pasadena, California. While they teach him about Hawaiian food which includes kimchee from Korea, sushi from Japan, spam and dried fish, he will help Calvin deal with a sixth grade bully.

The jacketflap biography of Graham Salisbury explains that he has set the *Calvin Coconut* books in the elementary school he attended, Kailua Elementary. His characters reflect the diversity of the Hawaiian islands being a mixture of native Hawaiian, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese and Italian, among others. Except for the culture shock that Willy (the boy from Pasadena) and Stella (the girl from Texas) exhibit, the book mostly focuses on how to deal with bullies, how to behave in school and taking responsibility for one's actions.

Series:

Calvin Coconut

Websites:

Author: <http://www.grahamsalisbury.com/>

Illustrator: <http://www.jacquelinerothers.com/>

Series: <http://calvincoconut.com/>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.grahamsalisbury.com/biography.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.jacquelinerothers.com/about.html>

Interview:

Murakami, T. (2007, May 17). An interview with Graham Salisbury. [Web log post].

Retrieved from <http://theyayayas.wordpress.com/2007/05/17/an-interview-with-graham-salisbury/> (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Themes:

Responsibility, bullying, Oahu, multicultural friendships, Hawaiian culture

Lesson Plan:

Curriculum connections with Calvin Coconut (n.d.) *Calvin Coconut* [website].

Retrieved from http://calvincoconut.com/Calvin_Coconut/Curriculum_Connections.html (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Nursery Rhymes / Mother Goose

Mavor, Salley, reteller. *Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes*. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2010. 62 pages. Hardcover. \$18.69. ISBN: 0-618-73740-5

Justification for inclusion:

ALA Notable Children's Books 2011 - Younger Readers:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb/index.cfm>

Salley Mavor sews miniature dolls, animals and other items to build the scenes for these nursery rhymes. The items used include naturally died wool, buttons, lace, beads, and sequins. The collection itself has poems and rhymes the author / illustrator remembers from her own childhood. It's a good mixture of classics and lesser known ones. There's an index that is searchable by first lines. The wide range of selected poems combined with the outstanding and unique illustrative style make this book stand out.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author / Illustrator: <http://www.weefolkstudio.com/> and <http://weefolk.wordpress.com/>

Book: <https://www.facebook.com/pocketfulofposies>

Biography:

Author: <http://www.threadsmagazine.com/item/11939/a-stitched-autobiography>

Interview:

Florista. (2011, April 16). Interview with Salley Mavor, artist and illustrator. *Feeling Stitchy* [blog]. Retrieved from <http://www.feelingstitchy.com/2011/04/interview-with-salley-mavor-artist-and.html> (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Themes:

Nursery Rhymes, Mother Goose, poetry

Lesson Plan:

Teachnology (n.d.) Teacher guide to nursery rhymes. Retrieved from http://www.teachnology.com/themes/lang_arts/nurseryrhymes/ (Accessed April 20, 2011)

Poetry Collection

1. Silverstein, Shel. *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. [30th anniversary special edition]. HarperCollins, 2004. 183 pages. Hardcover. \$19.89. ISBN: 0-06-058653-2

Justification for inclusion:

- ALA Notable Children's Book, 1974: <http://www.mccsc.edu/~jcmslib/jaguar/shel/awards.htm>
- *Essentials of Children's Literature*. Listed under "Specialized Poetry", p. 78.

Originally printed in 1974, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* is a collection of Shel Silverstein poems, some of which have been used in songs or published in other anthologies. Each one is a short,

often free verse poem with an accompanying line drawing. The 30th anniversary edition contains twelve new poems written and illustrated in the style of the original. The poems draw on humor, puns and unusual situations.

Series:

See also *The Light in the Attic*, p1981, c2004.

Websites:

Author / Illustrator: <http://www.shelsilverstein.com/>

Biography:

Author: <http://faculty.weber.edu/chansen/humanweb/projects/MeghanUng/biography.htm>

Interview:

Ung, M. (2002, December 2). Shel Silverstein bibliography. [Includes an annotated list of his best known interviews]. Retrieved from <http://faculty.weber.edu/chansen/humanweb/projects/MeghanUng/biblio.htm> (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Themes:

Humorous poetry, American poetry, fantasy, unusual characters.

Lesson Plan:

The World of Shel Silverstein (n.d.) A guide for teachers and librarians. Retrieved from: <http://www.shelsilverstein.com/html/Teachers.html> (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Single Illustrated Poem

1. Lear, Edward. *The Owl and Pussycat*. Illustrated by Anne Mortimer. Katherine Tegen Books, 2006. 26 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44. ISBN: 0-06-027228-7

Justification for inclusion:

The poem is among Edward Lear's best known nonsense poems. It includes elements listed as children's preferences in *The Essentials of Children's Literature*: narrative, pronounced sound patterns, distinctive and animal poetry (Lynch-Brown, Tomlinson & Short, 2011, p. 64).

The owl and pussycat go on a long sea journey in their pea green boat. After sailing the world for a year and a day they decide to get married. Anne Mortimer specializes in cat paintings and her attention to detail brings new life and whimsy to this classic poem. Children can discuss friendships, travel, how cats and owls are in real life and if they'd make a good couple as well as how the poem is structured. They could even be asked to do their own illustrations for the poem.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/index.html>

Illustrator: <http://www.annemortimer.com/index2.html>

Biographies:

Author: <http://www.poemhunter.com/edward-lear/biography/>

Illustrator: <http://www.annemortimer.com/bio.html>

Interview:

Vivian, H. (2008, April 4). Artist Anne Mortimer (interview). [Art & Exhibitions section].

What's on South West. Retrieved from: http://www.whatsontorbay.co.uk/article.php?id=9533®ion_id=2 (Accessed April 20, 2011)

Themes:

Nonsense poetry, owls, cats, travel, marriage

Lesson Plans:

Instructor Web (n.d.) Lesson plan for The Owl and the Pussy Cat by Edward Lear. Retrieved from <http://www.instructorweb.com/lesson/owlpussycat.asp> (Accessed April 20, 2011).

Reading A-Z (n.d.) The Owl and the Pussycat - lesson plans. Retrieved from: http://www.readingaz.com/newfiles/levels/lesson_plans/h/owl_and_pussycat/owlandthepussycat_print.html (Accessed April 20, 2011)

Multicultural Folk Tales

1. Lendroth, Susan, reteller. *Maneki Neko: the Tale of the Beckoning Cat*. Illustrated by Kathryn Ootshi. Shen's Books, 2010. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$15.26. ISBN: 1-885008-39-2

Justification for inclusion:

Featured reading at the Japanese American National Museum:

<http://www.janm.org/events/2011/01/>

Maneki Neko or "beckoning cat" is a retelling of a Japanese folk tale and porquoi story that explains the reason behind the good luck cat charms seen in many Japanese stores and restaurants. The book introduces children to Japanese history and culture as well as a few Japanese words. While the words are easy to understand in context, a glossary is included at the back of the book. The book highlights honesty, kindness to animals and others and the importance that luck plays in life.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: <https://www.facebook.com/SusanLendroth>

Illustrator: <http://www.kokidsbooks.com/>

Biographies:

Author: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Susan_Lendroth

Illustrator: See the illustrator's website.

Interview:

Danielson, J. (2011, January 23). 7-Imps's 7 kicks featuring Kathryn Otoshi. [Web log post]
Retrieved from: <http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=2068> (Accessed April 21, 2011)

Themes:

Japanese folklore, cat folklore, kindness to strangers, luck

Lesson Plan:

DLTK's Crafts for Kids (n.d.) Maneki neko craft. Retrieved from

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/world/japan/mmanekineko.htm> (Accessed April 21, 2011)

Haden, R. (2010, May 14). The beckoning cat lesson plan. *My Fresh Plans* [blog]. Retrieved from: <http://www.myfreshplans.com/2010-05/the-beckoning-cat-lesson-plans/> (Accessed April 21, 2011).

2. Verna, Aardema, reteller. *Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears: A West Africa tale*.

Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Dial Books for Young Readers, 1975. 32 pages. Hardcover. \$14.44 ISBN: 0-8037-6089-2

Justification for inclusion:

Caldecott Medal, 1976:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottwinner/s/caldecottmedal.cfm>

Mosquito likes to tell tall tales. One day he annoyed Iguana so much that he stuck sticks in his ears to avoid having to listen to pesky Mosquito any longer. When Iguana can't hear Python, Python thinks he's in trouble and tries to hide in Rabbit's hole. Onward this goes, each animal assuming the worst of the other until one of Owls babies is killed and she is too grieved to wake the sun. King Lion must call all the animals together to learn the truth behind Owlet's death. When the evidence leads back to Mosquito his is forever punished to whisper in people's ears. This story is a classic porquoi story from Africa that gives an allegorical reason behind the mosquitoes annoying sound while further teaching children the importance of not jumping to conclusions. Leo and Diane Dillon's use of gradients and well defined shapes to make their animals brings energy to the story, drawing the eyes right into the action.

Series:

No.

Websites:

Author: <http://www.childrensliteraturenetwork.org/birthbios/brthpage/06jun/6-6aard.html>

Illustrators: <http://www.bpib.com/l&dillon.htm> and
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_and_Diane_Dillon

Biographies:

Author: http://history.librarypoint.org/Verna_Aardema

Illustrators: <http://www.bpib.com/1%26dillon.htm>

Interview:

Haber, K. (2000, April). Leo & Dillion: The third artist rules. *The Locus Magazine*. Retrieved from <http://www.locusmag.com/2000/Issues/04/Dillons.html> (Accessed April 21, 2011)

Themes:

West African folklore, mosquitoes folklore, animal folklore, African animals, porquoi stories,.

Lesson Plans:

Scholastic (n.d.) Why Mosquitoes buzz in people's ears extension activities. Retrieved from http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collateral.jsp?id=645_type=Book_typeId=1127 (Accessed, April 21, 2011).

Smith, C. (n.d.) Afterschool exchange activity: Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears [pdf]. Retrieved from <http://www.wliw.org/edonline/afterschool/activities/literacy/mosquitoes.pdf> (Accessed April 21, 2011)

Biography

1. Johnson, Jen Cullerton. *Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace*. Illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler. Lee & Low Books, 2010. 40 pages. \$18.95. ISBN: 1-60060-367-X

Justification for inclusion:

John Steptoe new talent award, 2011:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/ckbookawards/recipients.cfm>

Seeds of Change, adapted from the transcript of Wangari Maathai's 2004 Nobel lecture outlines the life and career of the Green Belt Movement's founder. It begins with her childhood and goes through her education, a rare thing for girls living in rural Kenya. Having found a love of science and specifically botany, she earns a scholarship to attend college in Kansas. When she hears of the changes at home that are stripping the Kenyan forests bare, she returns to begin a grassroots movement to re-green Kenya. Sonia Lynn Sadler's colorful illustrations while similar to the Dillons' work on *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, her style draws inspiration from quilting and that is reiterated in the way she renders textiles throughout the book.

Series:

No

Websites:

Author: http://www.jencullertonjohnson.com/yahoo_site_admin/

Illustrator: <http://www.sonialynnsadlerarts.com/>

Biographies:

Author: None available

Illustrator: <http://www.sonialynnsadlerarts.com/About.html>

Interviews:

Book Talk (n.d.). Biography and the environment with Jen Cullerton Johnson and Sonia Lynn Sadler. *Lee and Low Books*. Retrieved from <http://www.leeandlow.com/p/seeds.mhtml> (Accessed April 21, 2011).

Smith, C. L. (2010, November 23). New voice: Jen Cullerton Johnson on Seeds of Change: Planting a path to peace. [Web log post]. Retrieved from: <http://cynthialeitichsmith.blogspot.com/2010/11/new-voice-jen-cullerton-johnson-on.html> (Accessed April 21, 2011)

Themes:

Green Belt Movement (Society : Kenya), Maathai, Wangari., Conservationists, Women's rights Kenyam, Nobel Prize winner, Women Biography. Kenya.

Lesson Plan:

Apples 4 Teacher (n.d.) Earth day activities: Earth day unit of study: Coloring pages, crafts for kids, word searches, word jumbles, worksheets. Retrieved from: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/earth-day/> (Accessed April 21, 2011).