

WASHINGTON CHILDREN'S CHOICE
PICTURE BOOK AWARD

2025 ACTIVITY PACKET



Agatha May and the Anglerfish

By: Nora Morrison & Jessie Ann Foley

Illustrated By: Mika Song

Synopsis: Agatha May is prone to daydreaming and disorganization but when she researches her favorite sea creature her passion and knowledge shine.

Suggested Reading Date: September (Start of the Year), June 8th (World Oceans Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Use as a jumping off point for animal research project.
- Highlight database options for research.
- Dig deeper into anglerfish and highlight notetaking or graphic organizers.
- Discuss neurodivergence and the importance of letting everyone's personality and learning strengths shine.
- Prepare for student presentations by highlighting the things Agatha May does to get and keep the class's attention.

Related Websites:

- The Greater Cleveland Aquarium, where Nora Morrison co-author works - <https://www.greaterclevelandaquarium.com/>
- Jessie AnnFoley, co-author, website - <https://www.jessieannfoley.com/>
- Mika Song, illustrator, website - <https://www.mikasongdraws.com/books>
- Anglerfish video for younger Kid friendly video from SciShow Kids - https://youtu.be/B0PQrkaZ5To?si=BK3e5Dr2f_U7o3xB
- Anglerfish video from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute - https://youtu.be/VqPMP9X-89o?si=gFk_Zn8EXgQNvuXQ
- Video on deep sea creatures appearance from PBS – Gross Science - <https://youtu.be/9Of5t2hn9YE?si=sItP6DvzbFaJU86h>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Shawn Loves Sharks* by Curtis Manley
- *The Mysterious Sea Bunny* by Peter Raymundo
- *Anglerfish: the Seadevil of the Deep* by Elaine M. Alexander
- *Ms. McCaw Learns to Draw* by Kaethe Zemach

Created By: Paula Wittmann

Bitsy Bat, School Star

Written and Illustrated By: Kaz Windness

Synopsis: Bitsy is a little bat with big star dreams of making friends at her new school. But when she arrives, Bitsy doesn't feel like she fits in. The other kids sit on their chairs, but sitting upright makes Bitsy dizzy. The other kids paint with their fingers, but Bitsy would rather use her toes. Everyone tells Bitsy she's doing things wrong-wrong-wrong, so she tries harder...and ends up having a five-star meltdown. With help from her family, Bitsy musters her courage, comes up with a new plan, and discovers that being a good friend is just one of the ways she shines bright!

Suggested Reading Date: September (start of school); April 2nd (Autism Awareness Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read the pictures of the story as well as the words. How is Bitsy the same and different from her classmates?
- Discuss. How did Bitsy Bat's "big star idea" change how her classmates saw her? What can you do to include others in your classroom?
- Create a DIY sensory bottle for your class: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/blog/video-diy-sensory-bottle>
- Have students wear different colored socks to create a class rainbow. Share the quote from Stuart Duncan, "Autism, like a rainbow, has a bright side & a dark side & even though it can mean rough weather, it can be beautiful!"
<https://twitter.com/autismfather/status/474244351464198145>
- Trace student hands (or use a star) in different colors and students write how they are special on it to create a class bulletin board.
https://school.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/activity_guides/65478.pdf
- Draw Bitsy Bat – Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6lHuuZNV3o>

Related Websites:

- Author's website: <https://www.windnessbooks.com/>
- Autism Speaks – Virtual Activities: <https://www.autismspeaks.org/virtual-activities-kids-autism>
- Activity Sheets and Educator Guide: <https://karenwindness.wordpress.com/2023/01/14/bitsy-bat-school-star-media-kit-lesson-plans-activity-sheet/>
- Understanding Your Brain Story – Activities & Videos: <https://neuroclastic.com/show-us-your-brain-free-resource-for-understanding-your-brain-story/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *How to Party Like a Snail* by Naseem Hrab
- *Ruby Finds a Worry* by Tom Percival
- *Linus: The Little Yellow Pencil* by Scott Magoon
- *Nigel and the Moon* by Antwan Eady

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein

Flat Cat

Written by: Tara Lazar
Illustrated by: Pete Oswald

Synopsis: Flat Cat likes being flat-roaming anywhere and happy to be unseen--until one day when he becomes fluffy, he learns to enjoy the attention it brings, and grows to love being seen.

Suggested Reading Date: August 8 (International Cat Day); October 29th (National Cat Day); April 11th (National Pet Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Create a Flat Cat.
- Discuss what it means to be seen or unseen.
- Compare and contrast flat vs fluffy.
- Discuss cuddles and emotions.
- Compose stories of Flat Cat and his adventures.
- Flat Cat Activities:
https://school.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/activity_guides/71784.pdf

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://taralazar.com>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.peteoswald.com>
- Flat Cat Author Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6J9a_0K2Pw

Text to Text Connections:

- *Flat Stanley* by Jeff Brown
- *Flat Stanley's Adventures in Class 2E* by Jeff Brown
- *Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion* by Stephen W. Martin
- *Cat Problems* by Jory John
- *The Scariest Kitten in The World* by Kate Messner

Created By: Angela Albrecht

Friends Beyond Measure: A Story Told With Infographics

Written and Illustrated By: Lalena Fisher

Synopsis: Ana and Harwin are great friends and the data supports that, but what happens when Harwin's family moves away?

Suggested Reading Date: March 5th – International Open Data Day; April – Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month; June 8th – National Best Friend Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss how the infographics support and add to understanding of the story.
- Talk about why a particular infographic might have been chosen for each spread.
- Have different classes or grade level create an infographic about the school or the library (great for library month!) and then create a display.
- Have students pair up and create Venn Diagrams about their interests.
- Have students choose one infographic to create from choices from the author (see link below).
- Share books with infographics.
- Have students analyze an infographic. Is the information clear? What is the main idea that is being shared?
- Model creating an infographic using a computer-based program available to students.

Related Websites:

- Author/illustrator's website: <http://www.lalenalab.com/index.html>
- Activity guide from publisher: <https://b0f646cfbd7462424f7a-f9758a43fb7c33cc8adda0fd36101899.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/activity-guides/AG-9780063210523.pdf>
- Diagram activity masters from the author: http://www.lalenalab.com/illustration/illustration_activitypgs.html
- Infographics from Kids Discover magazine: <https://kidsdiscover.com/infographics/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away* by Meg Medina
- *The Boy Who Loved Maps* by Kari Allen
- *Friends are Friends Forever* by Dane Liu

Created By: Paula Wittmann

Gertie The Darling Duck of WWII

By: Shari Swanson

Illustrated: Renee Graef

Synopsis: In 1945, against the backdrop of WWII, a soon-to-be-mama duck builds a nest in a precarious spot in the city of Milwaukee. Soon, news outlets around the world are carrying the hopeful story of the plucky duck.

Suggested Reading Date: November 11th (Veteran's Day), January 19th (National Duck Day), May 26th (Memorial Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read and share the "More to the Story" section for additional information about Gertie, her story, and the sculptures of her and her ducklings on the Wisconsin Avenue Bridge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- Share/discuss photographs of Gertie and her story.
- Share/discuss photographs of the sculptures of Gertie and her ducklings.
- Research animal heroes.
- Research animal war heroes.
- Learn about life for children and families during World War II.

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.shariswanson.com>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.graefillustration.com>
- Video - Milwaukee's Most Famous Duck, Gertie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWjtn3E0cM4>
- Article and 16 photographs: <https://www.jsonline.com/story/life/green-sheet/2020/04/22/gertie-duck-milwaukee-found-hope-75-years-ago-during-world-war-ii/2889565001/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Rags: Hero Dog of WWII* by Margot Theis Raven
- *Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of a Little Horse Who Became a Hero* by Patricia McCormick
- *Stubby the Dog Soldier: World War I Hero* by Blake Hoena
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey

Created By: Angela Albrecht

The Girl Who Heard the Music: How One Pianist and 85,000 Bottles and Cans Brought New Hope to an Island

Written By: Marni Fogelson & Mahani Teave
Illustrated By: Marta Álvarez Miguéns

Synopsis: The true story of award-winning pianist and environmental activist Mahani Teave and the beloved island she is helping to save.

Suggested Reading Date: March 29 (World Piano Day); April (Earth Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- **Makerspace:** Collect recyclables in boxes for several weeks. Have students use these materials to create their own musical instruments to give materials a new life. Ideas for instruments can be found here: <https://www.musicindustryhowto.com/homemade-musical-instruments/>
- Pair and Share: How does music make you feel? How do you think it made Mahani feel? What tells you that?
- Discuss the illustrations: What do the pictures tell you about the music in the book? Do you think the pictures can show you what you hear in music?
- Discuss the theme of helping the environment. What do you, your friends, and family do to help the environment? Does your school do anything?

Related Websites:

- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.martalvarez.com/>
- Mahani Teave's Website: <https://dworkincompany.com/site/artist/mahani-teave/>
- A Mighty Girl - Interview with author Marni Fogelson: <https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=36803>
- YouTube – Video showing the construction of the music school: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd7XBswFDlw>
- YouTube – Video of Mahani sharing about the importance of music on Rapa Nui: <https://youtu.be/yA5TV6odmeI?si=AnYieuLfwuKh3ycG>
- Tiny Desk Concert (NPR) – Mahani Teave: <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/24/1009053413/mahani-teave-tiny-desk-home-concert>
- Sourcebooks - Educator's Guide: <https://cdn-sourcebooks.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/downloads/educatorguides/GWHTM-EducatorGuide.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Seven Golden Rings* by Rajani LaRocca, *Amara and the Bats* by Emma Reynolds, *Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth* by Stacey McAnulty, *Black Beach* by Shaunna Stith, *Greta* by Jeanette Winter, *Dancing Hands* by Margarita Engle

Created By: Erin Quarterman

How Do You Spell Unfair?
MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee
Written By: Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrated By: Frank Morrison

Synopsis: In 1936, eighth grader MacNolia Cox became the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio, spelling bee. And with that win, she was asked to compete at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, where she and a girl from New Jersey were the first African Americans invited since its founding. But celebration turned to chill when the train crossed the state line into Maryland, where segregation was the law of the land. Prejudice and discrimination ruled--sadly, at the spelling bee itself.

Suggested Reading Date: October 9 – International Spelling Day; April 4 – National Spelling Day; Tue-Thu after Memorial Day – Scripps Spelling Bee

Activity Descriptions:

- Learn what a spelling bee is. Watch a video clip of Scripps Spelling Bee.
<https://www.youtube.com/@ScrippsNationalSpellingBee>
- Discuss. How would you feel if this happened to you?
- Look up information about qualifications for the Scripps Spelling Bee.
- Have a spelling bee with your class. Use words from curriculum.

Related Websites:

- Author's website - Carole Boston Weatherford: <https://cbweatherford.com/>
- Illustrator's website - Frank Morrison: <https://morrisongraphics.com/> -
- Scripps Spelling Bee: <https://spellingbee.com/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Because Claudette* by Tracey Baptiste
- *Max's Words* by Kate Banks
- *Ron's Big Mission* by Rose Blue
- *Word Collector* by Peter Reynolds

Created By: Dave Sonnen

I Don't Care

Written by: Julie Fogliano

Illustrated by: Molly Idle & Juana Martinez-Neal

Synopsis: A book about the small differences between friends and the big things that bring them together.

Suggested Reading Date: Beginning of the school year; August 4th (International Friend Day); October 13-19 (National Character Counts Week); any school SEL activities around differences/diversity

Activity Descriptions:

- Write or draw "What I care about in a friend" & hang on a tree/display
- Participate in a "Character Counts" week or National Character Counts: <https://charactercounts.org/character-counts-week/>
- Send Kindness Grams: https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/lesson-plans/Grade_1_Courage_Project_1_Kindness_Grams.pdf
- Create a Buddy Bench
- Do a Kindness Jar activity

Related Websites:

- Author website: <https://juliefogliano.com/about>
- Illustrator website: <http://www.idleillustration.com/about.html>
- Illustrator website: <https://juanamartinezneal.com>
- Radio Interview with Author & illustrators talking about their book: <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/1142003681>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Zack and Ike Are Exactly Alike* by Suzanne Bloom
- *We Are Going to Be Friends* by Mark Teague
- *Eyes That Kiss the Corners* by Joanne Ho
- *Sloth & Squirrel in a Pickle* by Cathy Ballou Mealey

Created By: Roman Maunupau

The King Penguin

Written and Illustrated By: Vanessa Roeder

Synopsis: King penguin Percival is off to find subjects who will listen to him, as long as they do not eat him first.

Suggested Reading Date: September - beginning of school/making rules for a group;
January 20th – National Penguin Awareness Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss what it means to be a leader – who gets to make decisions for a group? Why?
- This book uses a lot of alliteration – Percival Penguin, Practically Perfect, Minuscule Minion, etc. Discuss alliteration and see how many alliterative words you can use to describe Percival.
- Create a “Memory” style game of penguin species. Consider laminating them for reusability. <https://1plus1plus1equals1.net/download/penguin-3-part-cards/>
- Watch a video about King Penguins or other types of penguins: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/topic/penguin-facts#be997f00-4c96-422e-ab1d-4ccd5557957a>
- Draw a Penguin activity sheet – PDF: <https://edgmemberprintables.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/154howtodrawaPenguin-printableworksheet.pdf>

Related Websites:

- Author’s Website: <https://vanessaroder.com/>
- SciShow Kids – Meet 3 Peculiar Penguins: https://youtu.be/T8Wp2yWH_3E?si=tGQlbWvfb_WhYaPQ

Text to Text Connections:

- *Old Man and the Penguin* by Julie Abery
- *Pierre the Penguin* by Jean Marzollo
- *Rulers of the Playground* by Joseph Kuefler
- *Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners* by Laurie Keller

Created By: Erin Quarterman

Not a Monster

Written By: Claudia Guadalupe Martinez
Illustrated By: Laura Gonzalez

Synopsis: Not a Monster explores the traits of the axolotl, the Aztec origin myth about the species, and the way pollution is affecting its natural habitat- the canals of Xochimilco in Mexico City; includes Spanish vocabulary.

Suggested Reading Date: October 7th (World Habitat Day); February 1st (National Axolotl Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Research axolotls using a database like World Book Encyclopedia or PebbleGo.
- Discuss how you would feel if your habitat was being threatened.
- Label an axolotl.
- Make a diorama of an axolotl habitat.
- Create a life cycle of an axolotl.
- Match the Spanish words throughout the book (especially color words) to the English words.

Related Websites:

- Author's website - Claudia Guadalupe Martinez: <https://claudiaguadalupe.com/>
- Illustrator's website - Laura Gonzalez: <http://laugonzalez.com/index.html>
- San Diego Zoo: <https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/axolotl>
- Natural History Museum: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/axolotls-amphibians-that-never-grow-up.html>
- Axolotl's in Peril - Scholastic ScienceWorld: <https://scienceworld.scholastic.com/pages/promotion/082922/axolotls-in-peril.html?language=english#1100L>
- Not a Monster Activity Packet from Charlesbridge: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0750/0101/files/not-a-monster-activity-kit.pdf?v=1676306268>

Text to Text Connections:

- *So You Want to be a Frog* by Jane Porter
- *Nobody Likes Frogs: A Book of Toadally Fun Facts* by Barbara Davis-Pyles
- *You Don't Want to be a Frog* by Dev Petty

Created By: Jolyn Danielson

Out of a Jar

Written and Illustrated By: Deborah Marcero

Synopsis: Llewellyn, a little rabbit overwhelmed by his emotions, hides away his feelings in glass jars, until he discovers life is more colorful when he sets his emotions free.

Suggested Reading Date: October (Emotional Wellness Month); October 10th (World Mental Health Day); April 5th (National Feelings Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Make a list of all the emotions that the students can name.
- Have students sort emotions into categories such as happy, sad, angry, & afraid.
- Relate book to the movie "Inside Out" 1 and/or 2 (show the clip in the 2nd movie when the emotions are put in a jar if possible).
- Make "feelings" out of colorful socks filled with beans & have students put them in (& out of) jars or pass them around as they discuss times when they have felt that emotion.
- Have students do a "Shades of Meaning" list of emotions and have them order them as to which words show mild to strong shades emotions (words such as: happy, elated, joyful, exuberant, excited, jubilant, etc.)
 - Examples: <https://jillianstarrteaching.com/shades-of-meaning/>
 - If you are familiar with LETRS, see Unit 5 – pg. 54
- Have students act out emotions either with facial expressions/body language or using stuffed animals, etc.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://deborahmarcero.com/>
- Author Read Aloud of the companion book, "In a Jar": <https://youtu.be/9o1Mr5yaJhg>
- Article: 12 Ways to Help Students Identify their Emotions: <https://www.edutopia.org/article/12-ways-to-help-students-identify-their-emotions>
- Feelings Song Video: <https://youtu.be/0076ZF4jg3o>
- Teaching Kids about Emotions: <https://proudtobeprimary.com/emotions-for-kids/>
- Art Activities for Teaching Feelings: <https://www.kiddiematters.com/9-ways-to-teach-children-about-feelings/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *A Walk in the Words* by Hudson Talbott
- *The Bad Seed* by Jory John
- *Potato Pants!* by Laurie Keller

Created By: Alicia Rogers

Paula's Patches

Written By: Gabriella Aldeman

Illustrated By: Rocío Arreola Mendoza

Synopsis: Embarrassed about a hole in her pants, creative and resourceful Paula covers it with a patch, and discovers her classmates also have leaky, stained, and hand-me-down items that could benefit from a colorful patch.

Suggested Reading Date: September (National Sewing Month); April (Earth Day); May 21 (I Need a Patch for That Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Makerspace: Have students work to create something to use out of things that aren't useable anymore. Ideas include: socks with holes, plastic bottles, cardboard from boxes, bubble wrap, leftover wrapping paper, pictures from birthday cards or magazines, loose playing cards, broken bits of jewelry, (clean) cloth masks.
- Makerspace: Watch the videos below to make a no-sew pillow and a fabric pouch.
- Discuss the idea of Hand-Me-Downs. Ask students to share something handed down to them. Ask them about something they have handed down.
- Discuss "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" concept with students. Which one of these is Paula using? How can you make something fun, artistic or useful from things that would usually go in the trash or recycling?
- Write a "Hand Me Down" story:
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0e403dddb9ca0001a1a686/t/65985a58f5406d499a34f467/1704483416380/My+Hand+Me+Down+Story.pdf>
- Design your own patches (for yourself or for a partner):
https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d0e403dddb9ca0001a1a686/t/659851c721318d54e487ceb8/1704481223768/k_2_handout_draw+your+own+patches.pdf

Related Websites:

- Author's website: <https://www.writebetween.com/picture-books>
- Illustrator's website: <https://catagencyinc.com/rocio-arreola/>
- Leader's Guide to Paula's Patches:
<https://www.teachercreatedmaterials.com/estore/files/pdownloads/paulas-patches-leaders-guide-rd2.pdf>
- Video - How to make a fabric pouch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H1f-vHPXNRM>
- Video – How to make a no-sew pillow:
<https://youtu.be/vlwATtRRAdA?si=HUrPK77rnhmdeliX>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller, *Potato Pants* by Laurie Keller, *The Smart Cookie* by Jory John, *What Do You Do with an Idea?* By Kobi Yamada, *Me and the Boss* by Michelle Edwards, *What Can You Do with a Rock?* by Pat Zietlow Miller

Created By: Erin Quarterman

Ramen for Everyone

Written by: Patricia Tanumihardja

Illustrated by: Shiho Pate

Synopsis: The story of Hiro as he tried to make the perfect bowl of ramen with a family recipe passed down from grandfather and dad.

Suggested Reading Date: March-April (Cherry Blossom Festival); May (AANHPI Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Learn about the history of ramen.
- Draw/illustrate about family recipes.
- Learn some Japanese words (father, sister, ramen toppings, etc) in the story.
- Decorate a ramen bowl with your favorite toppings: <https://ediblewords.com/activities/>
- Share family backgrounds of where people came from.
- Learn about Japanese people & their contributions in Washington.

Related Websites:

- Author website: <https://ediblewords.com/about/>
- Illustrator website: <https://www.shihopate.com>
- Ramen for Everyone Cooking Demonstration by author Pat Tanumihardja: <https://youtu.be/56I8uvZZShI?si=CZxM-pATKRAQtcaL>
- Google Arts & Culture - The Roots of Ramen: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/CAVxS5QL1jNFKw?hl=en>
- Teacher's Guide: Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage and History in the U.S. - <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/ForTeachers.html>
- University of Washington Cherry Blossoms: <https://www.washington.edu/cherryblossoms/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao* by Kat Zhang
- *Granny's Kitchen* by Sadé Smith
- *Magic Ramen: The Story of Momofuku Ando* by Andrea Wang
- *Ruby's Reunion Day Dinner* by Angela Dalton
- *Dumpling Day* by Meera Sriram
- *I Can Open It for You* by Shinsuke Yoshitake

Created By: Roman Maunupau

The Red Jacket

Written & Illustrated By: Bob Holt

Synopsis: Bob loves his red jacket. The red jacket makes him feel swanky cool. The red jacket makes other seagulls notice him and even speak to him. But when a wave washes it away, will Bob lose his cool and his newfound friends, too?

Suggested Reading Date: November 13th (World Kindness Day); January 5 (National Bird Day); Anytime you need some SEL reinforcement for friendship.

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss what makes a friend.
- Discuss character traits of a good friend.
- Let students draw what they would give their friends and have them tell why they chose that gift.
- Have students make/create/draw jackets (with their names on the back) and play a game of musical jackets. When the music stops students must see whose it is, go to them and tell them one nice thing about them (give them a warm fuzzy, per se).

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://bob-holt.myportfolio.com/>
- Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/F9Qr1CTZZIY>
- Teaching Kindness with free activity: <https://www.thepathway2success.com/teaching-kindness-with-a-free-activity/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Knuffle Bunny Free* by Mo Willems
- *Chez Bob* by Bob Shea
- *The Bad Seed* by Jory John
- *I Want My Hat Back* by Jon Klassen

Created By: Jolyn Danielson

Remember

Written by: Joy Harjo

Illustrated by: Michaela Goade

Synopsis: A book adaptation of a poem celebrating life, our connection to day, night, nature, plants, animals, our ancestors, each other, and the universe.

Suggested Reading Date: October 11th (Indigenous People's Day); November (Native American Heritage Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Learn about Native Art motifs & symbols.
- Learn about Native Traditions through online resources or connecting with your nearest tribal community: <https://native-land.ca/>
- Explore the plants and animals in your school neighborhood.
- Talk to parents/grandparents/community elders to learn about personal histories or histories for your community.
- Make an art collage mural of things your students think are important to remember.

Related Websites:

- Author website: <https://www.joyharjo.com>
- Illustrator website: <https://www.michaelagoade.com>
- Story as read by author Jo Harjo: <https://youtu.be/ltt9axKm2cA?si=9fV7pKPNotm2h6E7>
- Indigenous Star Stories: <https://www.wernative.org/articles/indigenous-star-stories>
- WeRNative: <https://www.wernative.org/my-culture/traditions>
- Native American Art of the Northwest Coast: https://artsandculture.google.com/story/native-american-art-of-the-northwest-coast-bureau-of-indian-affairs/ywWBBqM_vlZQLg?hl=en

Text to Text Connections:

- *Raven* by Gerald McDermott
- *The First Blade of Sweetgrass* by Suzanne Greenlaw
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- *Fry Bread* by Kevin Noble Maillard
- *First Laugh: Welcome Baby!* By Rose Ann Tahe & Nancy Bo Flood
- *We Are Grateful* by Traci Sorell
- *My Powerful Hair* by Carole Lindstrom

Created By: Roman Maunupau

Something, Someday

Written By: Amanda Gorman

Illustrated By: Christian Robinson

Synopsis: Sometimes the world feels broken. And problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, together we can find beauty and create change.

Suggested Reading Date: April 22nd (Earth Day); April (Poetry month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Read the pictures of the story as well as the words.
- Read a book about Earth Day as well.
- Discuss. What are some of the ways that the boy in *Something, Someday* changed his neighborhood? What could you do to make a difference?
- Students look up Earth Day activities using the link below and choose one or two things they can do to make a positive change in their home and neighborhood.
- Create a community service project.
- Partners: one person writes a poem and the other illustrates it.

Related Websites:

- Author's website - Amanda Gorman: <https://www.theamandagorman.com>
- Illustrator's website - Christian Robinson: <https://www.theartoffun.com/>
- Earth Day activities - <https://www.almanac.com/content/earth-day-date-activities-history>

Text to Text Connections:

- *I am Earth* by Rebecca and James McDonald
- *Growing an Artist* by John Parra
- *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown
- *We Planted a Tree* by Diane Muldrow

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein

Spanish is the Language of My Family

Written By: Michael Genhart

Illustrated By: John Parra

Synopsis: As a boy prepares for his school's Spanish spelling bee, he asks his grandmother for help with some of the words he doesn't know how to spell yet. When she studies with him, she tells him how different things were back when she was a girl, when she was only allowed to speak English in school. This only inspires him to study even harder and make his family proud.

Suggested Reading Date: Grandparents Day, September 7th; National Spanish Spelling Bee, late June

Activity Descriptions:

- Read the pictures of the story as well as the words. What do you notice in the background?
- Discuss. What are some of the stories Manolito's abuela shares about when she was a little girl?
- Make a graph of the home language the students speak. How many different languages are in our class?
- Students take turns picking a word from the story and spell it in Spanish (see Spanish Alphabet on the last page).
- Make a card for your grandparent.
- Organize a Spanish Spelling Bee at your school.

Related Websites:

- Michael Genhart - <https://michaelgenhart.com/> - Author's website
- John Parra - <https://johnparraart.com/> - Illustrator's website
- Children's Books Spotlight Series - https://youtu.be/qT3BQeF_seE?si=9fTbB3hFTCK1z12t - John Parra Interview
- National Spanish Spelling Bee - <https://nationalspanishspellingbee.com/>
- Book Trailer - https://youtu.be/_ZpI451-pD0?si=SEuDXWGWib-7IZdP
- 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee Winning Moment - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBH7FMInOrw>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Growing An Artist* by John Parra
- *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero
- *Ten Beautiful Things* by Molly Griffin
- *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Pena

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein

Stranded! A Mostly True Story from Iceland

By: Aevan Thor Benediktsson

Illustrated: Anne Wilson

Synopsis: Based on a true story, this shares what happened when the author's grandfather and a friend were stranded on an active volcano off the coast of Iceland.

Suggested Reading Date: November 14th (the day that the eruption was first noted); April 7th (Geologist's Day); May (Washington State's Volcano Preparedness Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Explore the country of Iceland.
- Share information about the formation of Surtsey- there are links to diagrams and a video below.
- Discuss the emotions and feelings that the two men might have felt at different points in the story.
- Share survival skills and how the two men could have been better prepared.
- Talk the author's decision to add in information about "the wishing moment" and the one untrue detail. Why do they think he chose to do that?
- Share the video below about how Iceland is using geothermal energy. Discuss reasons that they are doing that.

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.aevanwritesbooks.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://anne-wilson.co.uk/>
- Discussion guide from the publisher:
https://www.barefootbooks.com/media/CMS/educators/2023/1023/Stranded_Discussion_Guide_041823.pdf
- Diagrams of the formation of Surtsey from 1963 – 1967 from map maker who works at The Icelandic Meteorological Office:
<https://ragnarheidar.tumblr.com/post/152856658831/formation-of-the-volcanic-island-surtsey-in-block>
- Archival footage of the eruption from encyclopedia Britannica:
<https://youtu.be/2LYsxUilo-o?si=VmNTmIYdua5nVGo9>
- Video about how Iceland uses geothermal energy from the BBC:
<https://youtu.be/3KepmDQfEHg?si=Luge0i7LH82G3OT>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Princess and the Warrior* by Duncan Tonatiah
- *Growing an Artist* by John Parra
- *Life on Surtsey: Iceland's Upstart Island* by Loree Griffin Burns

Created By: Paula Wittmann

This is Not My Story

By: Ryan Uytdewilligen

Illustrated: David Huyck

Synopsis: This hilarious and unique take on metafiction offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process as the hero of this book embarks on a genre-bending journey to find the right story with the help of the author.

Suggested Reading Date: Beginning of the year/unit to introduce genre; April 27th (National Tell a Story Day); March 20 (World Storytelling Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Teach about genres and ask students to name the genres in the book.
- Have students discuss their favorite genre.
- Have students write the type of story they would like to be in.
- Create an interactive storytelling activity where students work together to create storyboards, write an alternate ending, or act out scenes from the book.
- Have students create the main character, aliens, or other characters with playdough, clay, or other materials.
- Discuss the different styles of illustrations and that the illustrator used a mix of narrative and graphic novel styles. Have students create their own related graphic novel/page.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://ryanuytdewilligenauthor.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://davidhuyck.com/>
- Book Trailer: <https://youtu.be/TAY6DXRILak>
- Author Interview: <https://youtu.be/5jmb8AfEzYA>
- Article about the story behind the book: <https://authorspublish.com/the-story-behind-this-is-not-my-story/>
- Video explaining the word "genre" and showing the Science Fiction genre: <https://youtu.be/nrusqQ5JftA?list=PLC1Jq5GGDqOMc7u59Y9ufGFA8siBf0tv2>
- Video showing different types of genres: <https://youtu.be/0mFKgjAOUJ0>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Chester* by Melanie Watt
- *The Perfectly Messed-Up Story* by Patrick McDonnell
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt

Created By: Alicia Rogers

We Are Going To Be Pals!

Written and Illustrated By: Mark Teague

Synopsis: A talkative cattle egret explains to a rhinoceros that in addition to having a symbiotic relationship, they also have a friendship built on communication, kindness, and a respect for boundaries.

Suggested Reading Date: September 22 (World Rhino Day); October 4 (World Animal Day)

Activity Descriptions:

- Research other animals that have symbiotic relationships.
- Find animal fiction that has animals working together.
- Pay attention to the non-verbal cues in the conversation.
- Research egrets and/or rhinoceroses.

Related Websites:

- Reading Rockets, Mark Teague – Author bio: <https://www.readingrockets.org/people-and-organizations/mark-teague>
- National History Museum, London – Mutualism – 8 symbiotic relationships: <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/mutualism-examples-of-species-that-work-together.html>
- Wildlife Woods – 6 Surprising Symbiotic Relationships: <https://wildlifewoods.net/blog/2018/8/23/6-surprising-symbiotic-relationships>
- AZ Animals - 15 Animal Relationships That Work Together in the Wild: <https://a-z-animals.com/articles/animals-species-that-work-together-in-the-wild/>
- There are many websites and videos on this topic. Search terms: animal ____: symbiotic, mutualism, alliances.

Text to Text Connections:

- *Honey...Honey...Lion!* by Jan Brett
- *Cyril and Pat* by Emily Gravett
- *Nugget & Fang* by Tammi Sauer
- *This Way, Charlie* by Caron Levis
- *Ugly Five* by Julia Donaldson

Created By: Dave Sonnen