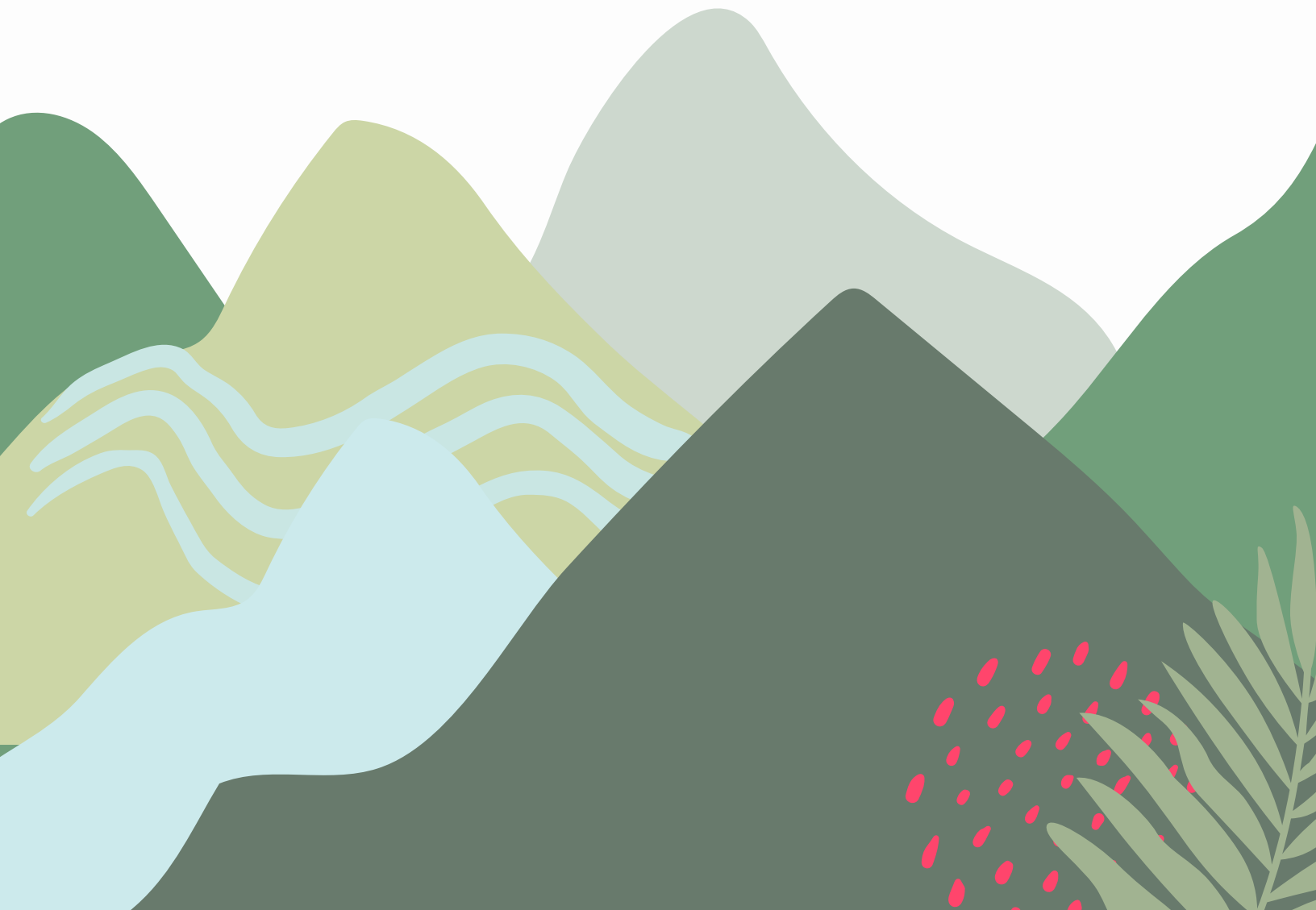


WA CHILDREN'S CHOICE PICTURE BOOK AWARDS

WCCPBA

ACTIVITY PACKET

2026-2027



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AWESOME EARTH

written by Joan Graham, illustrated by Tania Garcia



SYNOPSIS

Concrete poems describe and depict landforms, including caves, canyons, mountains, islands, archipelagos and even continents. Poems use figurative language, rhyme and alliteration, and often are in first person. An excellent glossary and overview of terms as well as web sites to explore

Call # 811.54

Author's Purpose
Inform, Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think about a time you were amazed by the natural world. Where were you?

Have you ever seen mountains? Islands? caves? the ocean? Can you explain how they came to be? Do they make you curious? Which do you prefer?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about a time they were curious about nature

Play: alone or with a partner, make shapes found in nature with your hands, or bodies, or pencil and paper

Make: draw a landform and fill it with words or a poem

VOCABULARY

geyser

oasis

recede

magma

dune

chasm

LEARN MORE

TEXT CONNECTIONS



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.joanbgraham.com/>



RESEARCH

Landforms and Landscapes

National Geography Society Landforms and Landscapes

Geologic Legacy

National Park Service Geology

SUGGESTED READING DATES

November

Geography Awareness Week (11/17-11/21)

April

National Poetry Month, Earth Day (4/22)

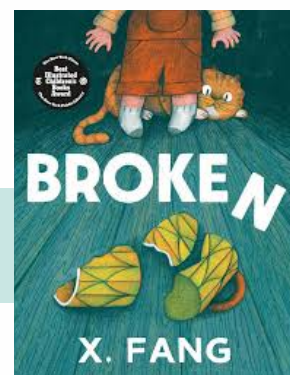
© by Jodie Purcell, WCCPBA 2026-27

BROKEN

by X. FANG

SYNOPSIS

When Mei Mei accidentally breaks her Ama's favorite cup, she's convinced it's the "end of the world." But then Ama thinks the cat is to blame, and Mei Mei struggles with a choice: will she let Ama believe she is innocent, or will she find the courage to admit her mistake?



Call # E FAN
Author's Purpose
 Entertain, Express

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think about a time you broke something valuable or made a mistake. How did you feel, and what did you do?

Have you ever tried to repair something you broke? How did it go?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about a time they broke something valuable or made a mistake

Play: play a memory game matching Mei Mei & Mimi's facial expressions to emotion words

Make: using student drawings & popsicle sticks, make puppets of Mei Mei, Mimi, and Ama and use them to retell the story

VOCABULARY

guilty	integrity
courage	accusing
forgiveness	kintsugi

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.xfang.studio/>



RESEARCH

<https://www.britannica.com/art/kintsugi-ceramics>



WATCH

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/kintsugi-pottery-mending-gold>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



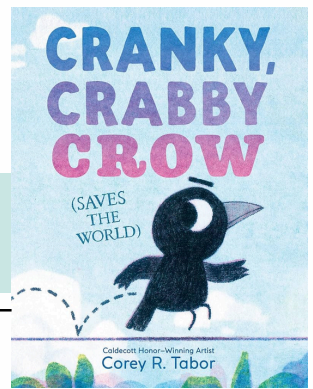
SUGGESTED READING DATES

September National Grandparent's Day (9/13), Beginning of School Year

October International Day for Failure (10/13)

CRANKY, CRABBY CROW (Saves the World)

by Corey R. Tabor



SYNOPSIS

Cranky, crabby Crow does not want to play with Squirrel or do loop-de-loops with Hummingbird. He doesn't have time for Rat or Bat. From high atop a telephone pole, Cat warns Crow that he will soon be all alone if he turns his friends away with his very cranky "kaw!" one more time. But, unbeknownst to all, Crow has bigger, world-saving fish to fry—he must protect planet Earth from an asteroid headed our way!

Call # E TAB

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why doesn't Crow want to do anything with his friends?

What did Crow do that no one knows about?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Write another adventure for Crow. Who or what does he save next?

Service: Crow helps without getting credit. What are some things you could do to help others without needed credit. Make a list.

Draw: Use your imagination and create an improved secret hid out for Crow

Research: Learn about crows.

VOCABULARY

asteroid

atmosphere

careens

zips

LEARN MORE

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

January National Bird Day (1/5)

April International Crow and Raven Day (4/27)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



<https://www.coreyrtabor.com/>

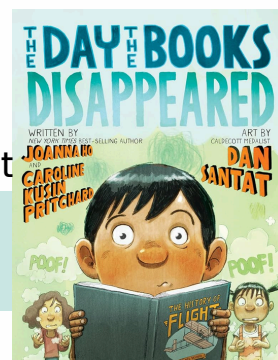


RESEARCH

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/10-fun-facts-about-american-crow>

THE DAY THE BOOKS DISAPPEARED

written by Joanna Ho & Caroline Pritchard, illustrated by Dan Santat



Call # E TAB

Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

Arnold didn't mean for the books to disappear—not exactly. It all started because he liked his book about airplanes best. Why would anyone want to read about tomatoes or ostriches or submarines (ew, the worst!) when they could read about planes, instead?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did Arnold learn about his classmate's interests?

What would you make disappear?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Have students interview each other to learn about each other's interests

Research: Find information about planes, tomatoes, ostriches, or submarines.

Make: Make a bar graph of student's favorite kind of non-fiction books.

VOCABULARY

aeronautical ostrich

disappeared reappear

TEXT CONNECTIONS



LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE CREATORS

<https://www.joannahowrites.com>

<https://carolinekusinpritchard.com>

<https://sites.google.com/g.risd.org/dansantat/home>

SUGGESTED READING DATES

September Beginning of School Year

January National Reading Day (1/23)

© by Dave Sonnen, WCCPBA 2026-27

THE DAY LEAP SOARED

written by Blair Braverman
illustrated by Olivia When



SYNOPSIS

Leap is a sweet, snow-loving sled dog puppy who can't wait until she's big enough to join the team. Each of the other sled dogs is special in their own way. Boo is fast. Donut is brave. Jenga is smart. And Leap wonders: Is she special, too?

Call # E BRA

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What did Leap worry about when she thought about her friends' special talents?

How did Leap help her friends?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Research: Learn about the Iditarod race and what sled dogs can do. Research arctic animals.

Discuss: What makes each student special

Play: Setup a mini Iditarod race sled using stuffed animals, string, & a cardboard box

Make: Design a ramp to help dogs jump a river, or use pipe stem cleaners & popsicle sticks to make a dog sled:

<https://carlyandadam.com/thecarlyandadam/itarod-dog-sled-stem-challenge>

VOCABULARY

harness

appetite

grouse

snowbank

resourceful

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.blairbraverman.com>



Illustrator's Website

<https://oliviawhen.com/>



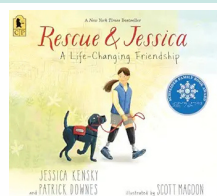
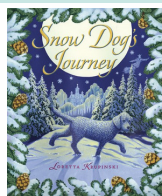
WATCH

Video about sled dogs:
<https://youtu.be/6nVfFNbxX7s>

Funny video of dogs walking in boots for the first time:

<https://youtu.be/aYNHJ19yDDc>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



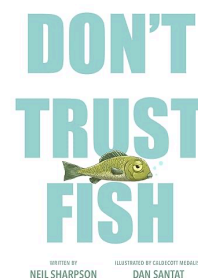
SUGGESTED READING DATES

November Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day (11/24)

February National Sled Dog Day (2/2)

DON'T TRUST FISH

by Neil Sharpson, Illustrated by Dan Santat



SYNOPSIS

Fact and fiction meet as an unseen narrator attempts to convince the reader that fish are not trustworthy, presenting strange evidence to prove that fish are sneaky.

Call # E SHA

Author's Purpose
Persuade, Inform,
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who is Jeff, and why does the narrator think he's so crafty?

Who was really telling the story, and why does that change everything?

What are some of the fish facts from the story?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Have students write a "Warning" poster for a different animal (e.g., "Don't Trust Squirrels") using silly "reasons" and one real fact.

Play: Animal classification bingo

Make: Fact and opinion zine:
<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2025/12/dont-trust-fish-facts-and-opinions-and-zine-creation-in-the-school-library/>

VOCABULARY

doom

disguises

scoundrel

bioluminescence

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2273135/neil-sharpson/>



RESEARCH

Biggest aquarium in the US:

<https://youtu.be/83Thw7ntIME?si=e234DG1jfXN0jy06>



WATCH

Book read by author:

<https://youtu.be/Aq5p9R1FVWI?si=JrkaHDXQ7WwOnE5b>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



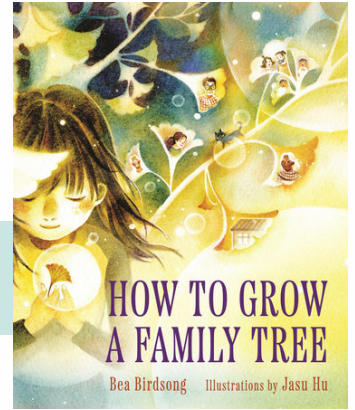
SUGGESTED READING DATES

Mid-March Misinformation Day

April 22nd Earth Day

HOW TO GROW A FAMILY TREE

by Bea Birdsong, Illustrated by Jasu Hu



SYNOPSIS

A family tree assignment troubles a girl with a single mom and no ties with relatives, until she realizes she has a found family in her neighbors.

Call # E BIR

Author's Purpose
Entertain, Express

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Who is someone in your life that helps and supports you that isn't family?

What do you think is the big idea that the author wanted to share?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Use KWL to prompt writing: What is something you know about your family? What is something you wonder about your family? How could you learn more?

Share: Invite students to bring in a family picture or memento, or share a family story.

Make: Have students make a family tree. The archives link has several downloadable sheets.

VOCABULARY

family tree	uncle
neighbor	aunt
found family	cousin

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://beabirdsong.com/>



RESEARCH

US Archives page on kids & family trees.
<https://www.archives.gov/education/family-history>



WATCH

PBS segment on family trees
<https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/family-tree/city-island/>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



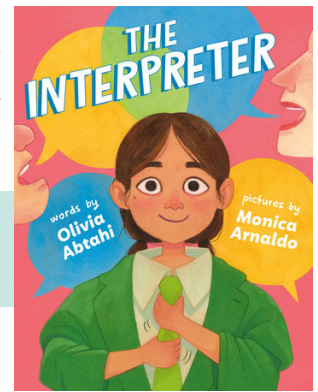
SUGGESTED READING DATES

October Family History Month

March Genealogy Day (3/13/27)

THE INTERPRETER

by Olivia Abtahi, Illustrated by Monica Arnaldo



Call # E ABT

Author's Purpose
Entertain, Express

SYNOPSIS

Some kids have one job: to be a kid! Cecilia has two. When she isn't being a kid and playing soccer, she's accompanying her parents to grown-up places as she helps them translate from Spanish to English and from English to Spanish. How will she be able to do both well?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some good things about knowing more than one language?

What did Cecelia learn from her parent teacher conference? What did her parents learn? What did they do to solve the problem?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Invite students to think/pair share or write about ways that they help their families.

Analyze: Take time to look at the illustrations of the grown-up places Cecelia goes to translate. What happens in those places?

Make: Give students a weekly planner sheet to write or draw what they do in a typical week.

VOCABULARY

interpreter acknowledge
professional shift
responsibility

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.oliviaabtahi.com/>
illustrator
<http://www.monica-arnaldo.com/>



DISCUSS

Reading and Reflection Guide -
<https://cdn.kpbs.org/13/6b/4b5e28884f578c212df6cc483194/artful-read-aloud-guide-for-adults-the-interpreter-1.pdf>

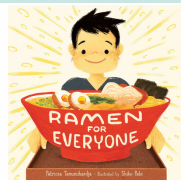


WATCH

Bilingual reading by the author.

<https://youtu.be/GbbqUcmm5nQ?si=YHUuv79sewn16wY9>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

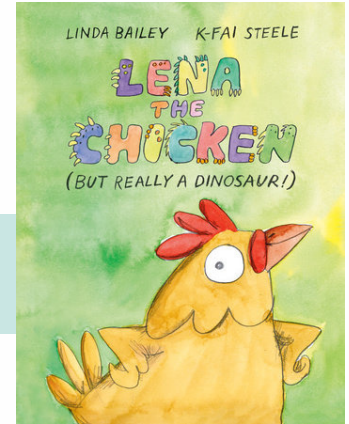
September 15 – October 15 Hispanic Heritage Month

March 27 International Multilingual Day

© by Paula Wittman, WCCPBA 2026-27

LENA THE CHICKEN (BUT REALLY A DINOSAUR)

by Linda Bailey, illustrated by K-Fai Steele



Call # E BAI

Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

Lena is a chicken, who knows deep down she's really a dinosaur. Her fellow chickens are confused, but Lena stays true to herself and works on her roaring and her chasing. When a weasel tries to break into the coop, Lena's bravery saves the day.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you think Lena feels part of her flock at the beginning? Why or why not?

What is a wonder you have about chickens or dinosaurs after reading this book?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about a friend they think is special because they are unique.

Dance: do the chicken dance to get kids moving. There are plenty of videos to guide you.

Explore: share resources about evolution or chickens.

VOCABULARY

coop

nervous

convince

DNA

despair

relatives

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.lindabaileybooks.com/>

<https://www.k-faisteele.com/>



RESEARCH

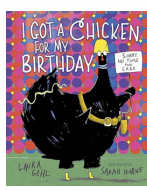
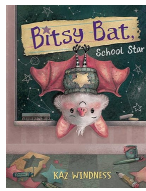
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-dinosaurs-evolved-into-birds.html>



WATCH

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/living-dinosaurs-amnh>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

Start of the year

Celebrating differences, working together

November 24 Evolution Day

May 14 National Dance like a Chicken Day

MIKE

THE MAGICAL COUGHING CAT

by Mag Takac



Call # E TAK

Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

Mike is a stray cat who finally finds a loving home. Soon the ladies find out that Mike is magical! when they wish for something, he coughs it up! This is fun at first, but it turns out getting everything you wish for can be...complicated.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you could adopt any animal, what would it be?

If Mike could cough up one thing for you, what would you wish for?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about a wish for themselves, a wish for their families, and a wish for the world.

Play: play charades and act out an object from the book that Mike coughs up

Make: use modeling or air-dry clay to sculpt Mike and his family.

VOCABULARY

stray	comfortable
detectives	inseparable
infection	magical

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://mag.takac.name/>



RESEARCH

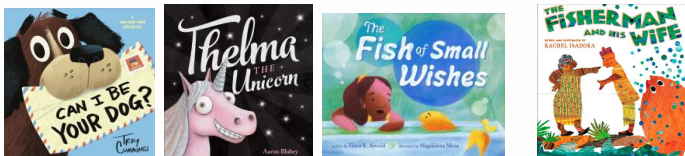
<https://www.imaginaryjourneys.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Wishes-3-Download-2.pdf>



WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVSoOyT4-5w&t=1s>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

March: International Rescue Cat Day (3/2)

April World Wish Day (4/29)

MONSTER HANDS

written by Karen Kane & Jonaz McMillan
illustrated by Dion MBD



Call # E KAN
Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

One night just before bedtime . . . Milo read a book about a monster under the bed. Milo should not have read that book. Monsters under the bed are scary, but luckily, Milo's best friend, Mel, knows just what to do—scare the monster more than the monster scares you!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE: What are the different kinds of ways we communicate with each other?

AFTER: How would you communicate with your friends across the room without using your voice?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Learn: Teach students the ABC's using ASL (American Sign Language).

Write: What would a sign that you and a friend would share with each other to say hi?

Play: With a partner use a flashlight to make hand puppets against a piece of paper or on a flat surface.

Make: Outline students' hand and make it into a monster.

VOCABULARY

shadow jittered

investigate jeered

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://karenkanebooks.com/books/monster-hands/>



RESEARCH

Learning ASL

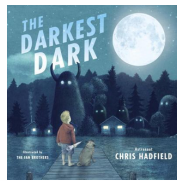
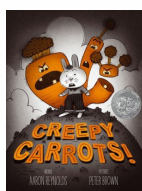
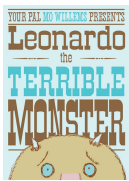


WATCH

Shadow Puppets

Learning ASL Through Dance

TEXT CONNECTIONS



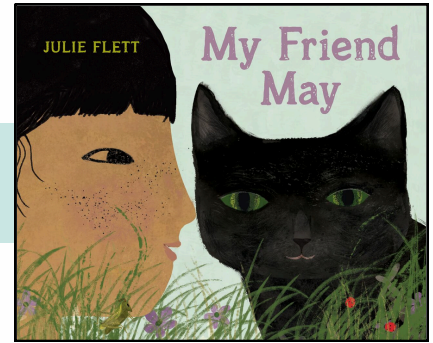
SUGGESTED READING DATES

April National American Sign Language Day (4/15)

December Celebrating Abilities Day (12/22)

MY FRIEND MAY

by Julie Flett



Call # E FLE

Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

Margaux and her cat May grew up together, sharing countless memories along the way. But one day, May is late coming home. Where is she? Margaux's nitôsis (Cree for auntie) helps search before she moves to the big city.. They wonder if May will ever return - but May has a surprise for both of them!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you ever lost something important to you? What did you do?

The Cree language has different words for Aunt depending on if it is a sister to your father or mother. Do you know words for Aunt in another language?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: students write a true story of a cat in their life from the prompt at the end of the book: "Do you have a story to tell? Your turn!"

Play: play a game with students to find something missing in the library. like a specific book or stuffed animal. when students find it, introduce a new section of the library where it was hidden.

Make: with cardstock, draw a cat bookmark so you don't lose your place in a book!

VOCABULARY

inspecting

worried

rather

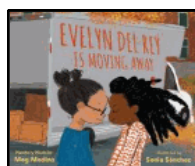
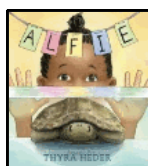
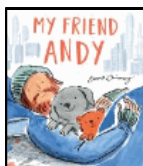
rumbling

dugout

rustled

LEARN MORE

TEXT CONNECTIONS



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.julieflett.com/>



RESEARCH

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/cat/352924>



WATCH

<https://youtu.be/3eQOU15IQf8?si=BO8y4DEQWVZ-LdMb>

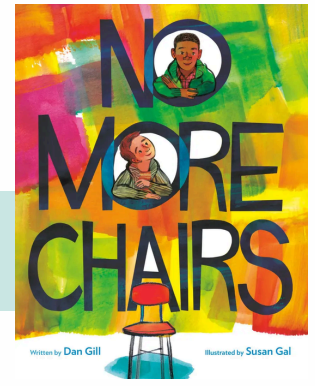
SUGGESTED READING DATES

October World Cat Month; National Cat Day (10/29)

November Native American Heritage Month

NO MORE CHAIRS

written by Dan Gill, illustrated by Susan Gal



Call # E GIL

Author's Purpose
Express, Persuade

SYNOPSIS

Mr. Gill keeps an always empty chair in his classroom. He wants all students to feel welcome, and this ensures that any new student has a place. Based on racial injustice from his youth, Gill's picture book shows a simple way to be an ally by retelling his anti-nostalgic story.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think about a time you saw someone bullied. What did you do? Have you ever felt you should speak up, but couldn't?

What does Steve's mom mean when she says they have no more chairs? When did you figure it out? When did Steve? Archie?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Show and Tell: Bring in an object or take a photo of something that is a symbol for welcome, and explain it

Plan: find a friend in the room and talk about how you became friends, how you help each other, and how you can stay friends as you grow up

Make: make a "Speak Up" pocket guide, <https://www.splcenter.org/resources/reports/speak-up-at-school/>

VOCABULARY

anticipation elevator operator

Sunday best acceptance

lobby ally

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.authordangill.com>

WELCOMING SCHOOLS LESSON

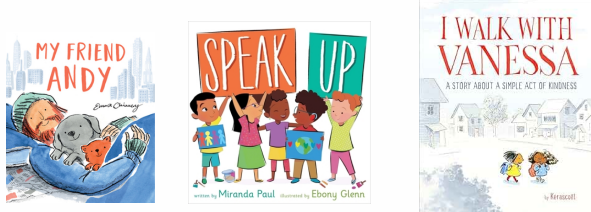
https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/welcoming-schools/documents/WS_Lesson_Ally_or_Bystander.pdf



WATCH

<https://youtu.be/X9tqaOuGt5A?si=Rmk-JtxHBnHVMdKW>

TEXT CONNECTIONS

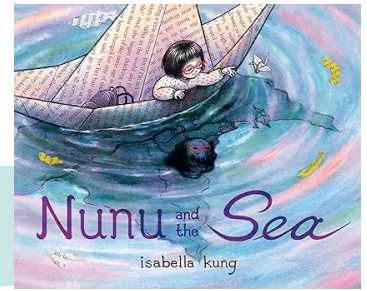


SUGGESTED READING DATES

October National Bullying Prevention Month
February Black Lives Matter week (2/1-2/5)
World Day of Social Justice (2.20)

NUNU AND THE SEA

by Isabella Kung



SYNOPSIS

When Nunu's emotions become too large to understand, she creates an origami boat and "sails away" into a fantastical sea that represents her internal struggle. The journey eventually leads her back to calm waters and a warm home, with the illustrations shifting to a soft, colorful palette as she finds peace and reconciliation (Kirkus).

Call # E KUN

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Nunu used art to help her feel better. What are some other "creative" ways people can calm down?

Why did Nunu have to "sacrifice" her boat to create something new? What does that tell us about moving on from big feelings?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write 3-2-1 Reflection: Have students list 3 feelings Nunu felt, 2 things she created, and 1 way she found her way home.

Play "Wordless" Storytelling: Have children "re-tell" the story in their own words based only on the illustrations, or create their own 3-panel silent comic about a feeling.

Make

- **Origami Creation:** Provide paper for children to fold their own "origami friends" or boats, just like Nunu, to represent things that make them feel safe or happy.
- **Emotion Sea Mural:** Students create a mural using dark colors to represent "stormy" feelings and bright colors for "calm" ones, adding their own paper creatures to the scene.

VOCABULARY

shifting

recedes

boundless

bravely

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://isabellakung.com/>



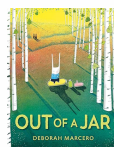
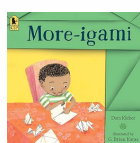
WATCH

SEL Flower Breathing
<https://youtu.be/P47YdW83gXQ?si=B6HeFuyMJxGtKU83>

Very Simple Origami
<https://www.origamiway.com/very-simple-origami-for-kids.shtml>

Create your Own Comic
<https://www.storyboardthat.com/comic-maker>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

October 24 – November 11th
World Origami Days

March 2nd International SEL Day

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OLD CLOTHES FOR DINNER?!

by Nathalie Alonso

SYNOPSIS

When Magaly's Abuela comes to live with them from Cuba, Magaly overhears that she is cooking *ropa vieja* ("old clothes?! yuck!") She frantically tries to hide her clothes to keep the family from eating them. Endnotes include imaginative names for food around the world, Spanish vocabulary, facts about Cuba, and recipes for *ropa vieja* and *arroz con leche*.



Call # E ALO

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Can you remember a time you've misunderstood or mistranslated something? What happened?

What are some recipes that are special in your family?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: ask students to write about a time they had a misunderstanding

Draw: guide students to draw images of foods from the back matter (e.g. "pig in a blanket," "buss up shut," and "pico de gallo")

Make: invite students to sculpt a favorite dish from home using clay

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

September 15–October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month

March

National Awkward Moments Day (3/18)

VOCABULARY

ropa vieja

Abuela

idiom

imaginative

literal

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.nathaliealonso.com>



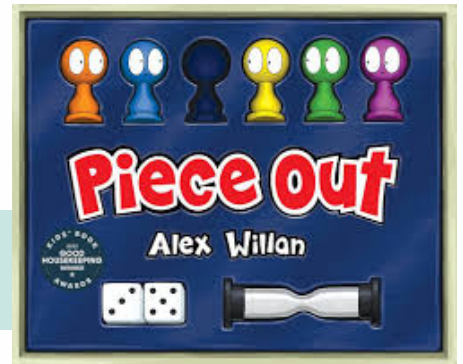
RESEARCH

<https://www idiomsbykids.com>

<https://www.theidioms.com/kids>

PIECE OUT

by Alex Willan



SYNOPSIS

When Red, a game piece, is accidentally left out of the game box, nothing—not a hungry robot nor ferocious Lady Flufferton—will stop Red from reaching home. In this action-packed, humorous story, Red learns from mistakes and discovers that with perseverance and resourcefulness nothing is impossible.

Call # E ALO

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why didn't Red stay with his old friends under the S.O.F.A.?

What did Red learn through his adventures?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: about some other obstacles that Red might have to overcome if the game piece was lost in your home.

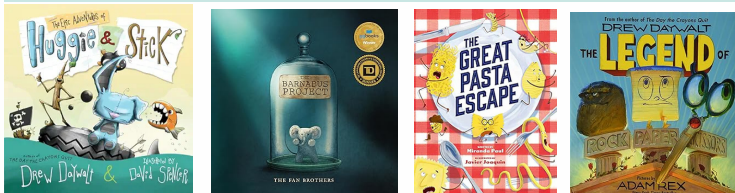
Discuss: your favorite board games or things you have lost.

Play: visit <https://games.ala.org/> under Resources you can find printable games.

Make: a map of your house or a board game – find steps and inspiration here:

<https://themanylittlejoys.com/how-to-make-a-board-game-fun-learning-activity-for-kids/>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

November International Games Month

December Games Day (12/20)

April National Board Game Day (4/11)

VOCABULARY

ancient civilization

murals transparent

fiasco dicey

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.alexwillan.com/>



RESEARCH

History of board games:
https://kids.kiddle.co/Board_game

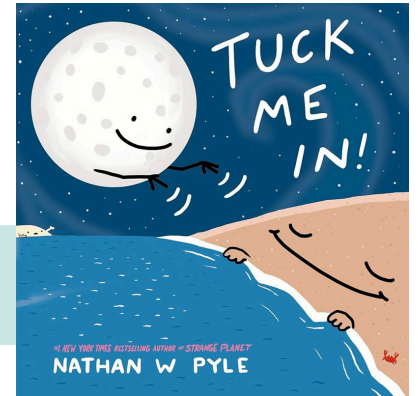


WATCH

Video on the history of popular board games:
<https://youtu.be/788czlgo3Ns>

TUCK ME IN!

by Nathan W. Pyle



SYNOPSIS

When the beach wants to be tucked in at night, the moon pulls up a cozy blanket of ocean. But then the beach on the other side of the world also wants to be tucked in. What will the moon do to keep all of the beaches happy?

Call # E PYL

Author's Purpose
Inform, Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Think about a time you had to take turns with something. Was it possible to keep everyone happy? How or why not?

What's your favorite part of getting tucked in at night? Who helps you get cozy?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to write the steps to their bedtime routine in order.

Play: Have a pajama and blanket party. Learn how to say "moon" in different languages.

Make: Use kinetic sand to make sandcastles. How high can you build it, and what makes the shape most stable?

VOCABULARY

frazzled

concept

protested

bulged

admired

buttresses

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://www.nathanwpyle.art/>



RESEARCH

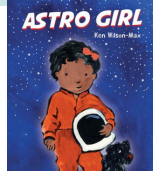
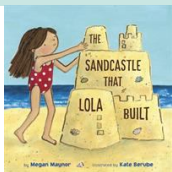
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/cause-effect-tides/>



WATCH

<https://www.nesdis.noaa.gov/about/k-12-education/oceans-coasts/what-causes-tides>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



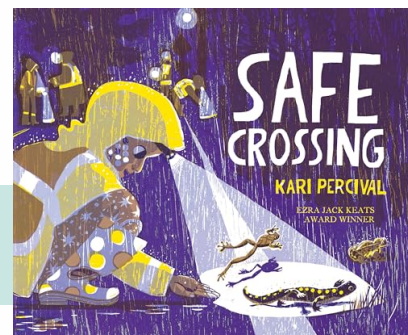
SUGGESTED READING DATES

September Otsukimi Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (9/15)

May Low Tides increase in spring (check local charts)

SAFE CROSSING

by Kari Percival



SYNOPSIS

How does an amphibian cross the road? With the help of the Amphibian Migration Team! Learn all about a citizen scientist who acts as a crossing guard for migrating amphibians and helps build them a tunnel to safety in this delightful nonfiction picture book!

Call # E PYL

Author's Purpose
Inform, Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What would you do to help animals get across or under something to avoid getting hurt?

What can you do to become a citizen activist?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: Invite students to write about how important it is to be amphibian citizen.

Play: Play a memory game matching animals with their crossings or habitats.

Make: Use Lego's, magna tiles, brain flakes, or Keva planks to make a crossing or habitat for an animal of choice.

VOCABULARY

migration

habitat

amphibian

endangered

citizen

vernal

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://karipercival.com>



RESEARCH

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/spotted-salamander-migration-big-night>

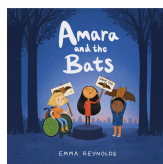
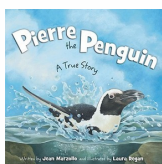
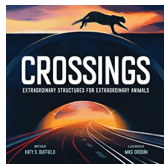


WATCH

[Author Kari Percival Interview](#)

[Crossing Video](#)

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

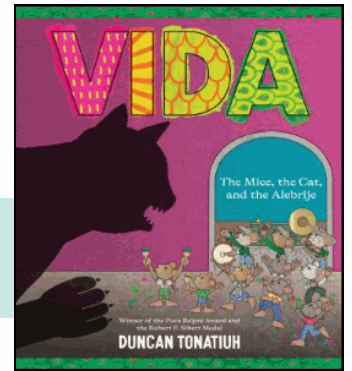
April Earth Day (4/22), Save the Frogs Day (4/27)

June World Environment Day (6/5)

VIDA

THE MICE, THE CAT, AND THE ALEBRIJE

by Duncan Tonatiuh



SYNOPSIS

To save their town, two little mouse siblings—Vida and her brother, Máximo—make a brave plan to scare away the cat after a bright, fantastical creature called an alebrije appears to them in a dream.

Call # E TON

Author's Purpose
Entertain

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Does this story remind you of any others? What story and what about it? Share the author's inspiration from the back of the book.

What attributes make Alebrijes special or distinct?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about a time they were brave.

Play: add animals to a spinning wheel and have students spin a certain number of times so they have multiple animals. they then combine them in a drawing.

Make: using paper or model magic, create and color your own alebrije creation. you could also make a mask with maker space supplies like the mice.

VOCABULARY

alebrije

diligently

vibrant

abandoned

stalked

deserted

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

<https://duncantonatiuh.com/>



RESEARCH

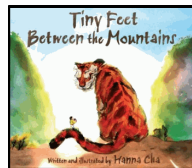
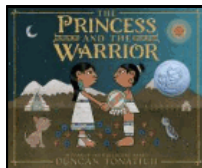
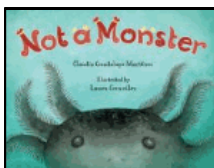
<https://kpcnotebook.scholastic.com/post/magical-world-alebrijes>



WATCH

<https://youtu.be/dmTSY-VozkA?si=38a4srDW7Pu196re>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

September/October Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15)

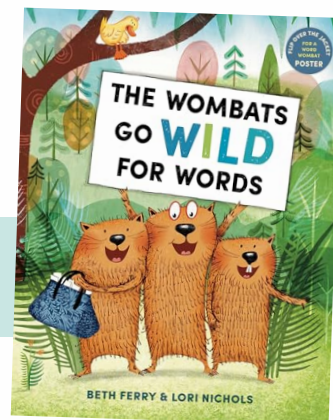
November Dia de los Muertos (11/1)

February Tell a Fairy Tale Day (2/26)

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THE WOMBATS GO WILD FOR WORDS

written by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Lori Nichols



Call # E FER

Author's Purpose
Entertain

SYNOPSIS

A trio of wandering wombats with a passion for words inspire an enthusiastic duckling to transform her town from dull to dazzling in this delectable picture book that shares with children the magic of words.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Do you know what an adjective is? Do you know what a synonym is?

Have you ever used a dictionary or thesaurus?

ACTIVITY IDEAS

Write: invite students to think/pair/share and/or write about their favorite word from the story.

Play: Play "match the synonym" game using the fabulous words from the story.

Make: Create a word chain with the vocabulary words in the story.

VOCABULARY

ordinary dull
refreshing embraced
marsupial

LEARN MORE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

[Beth Ferry Website](#)



RESEARCH

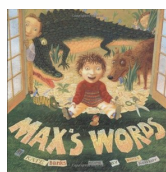
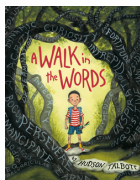
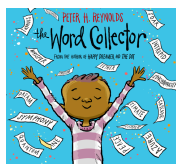
<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/general-animals/facts-about-wombats/>



WATCH

<https://youtu.be/uNNXvSWD2yU?si=hA3UevuqZlaotRB5>

TEXT CONNECTIONS



SUGGESTED READING DATES

October National Wombat Day (10/26)

January National Thesaurus Day (01/16)