

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award



2026 Nominees

Calendar Order

Name:

Teacher:

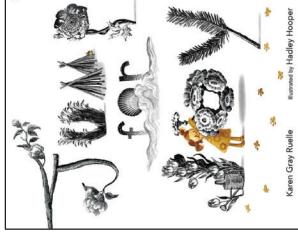
2nd/3rd Grade

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

Jump for Joy

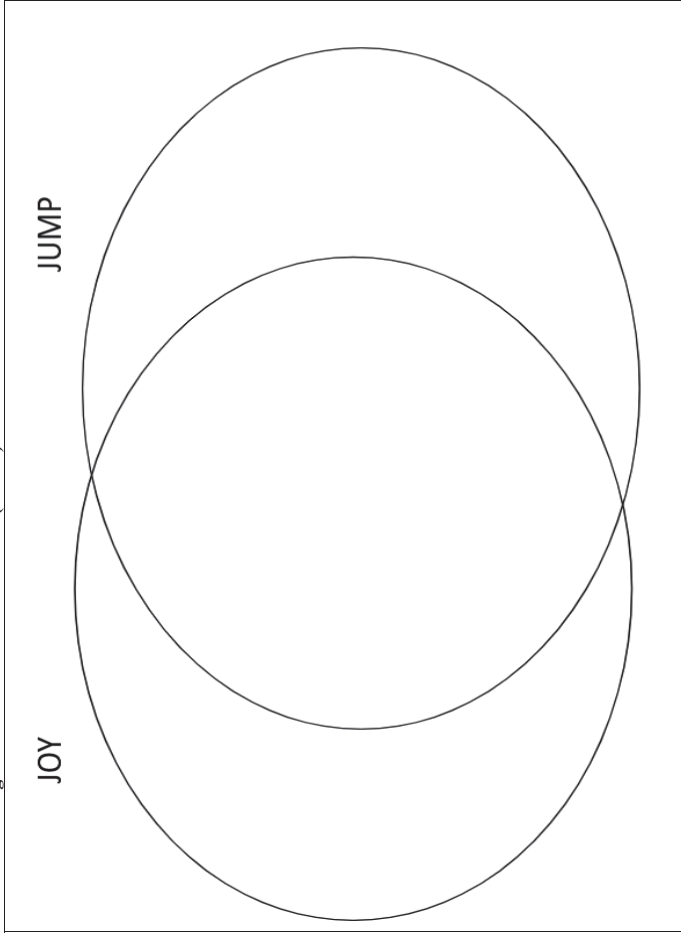
Written by Karen Gray Ruelle
Illustrated by Hadley Hooper



Book Rating:



What do the characters Jump and Joy do that are similar? How are Jump and Joy similar? different?
Use a Venn diagram to show their similarities (center) and differences.



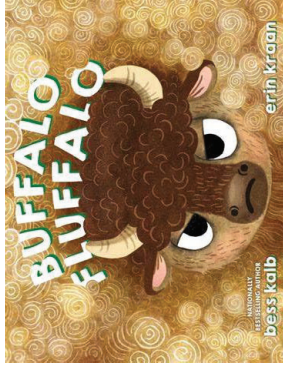
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

Buffalo Fluffalo

Written by Bess Kalb
Illustrated by Erin Kraan



Book Rating:



Do you feel like people expect you to act a certain way because of who you are or how you look? What did Buffalo Fluffalo expect the other animals to think of him? Do you think the other animals had those expectations?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Date: _____

The Together Tree

Written by Aisha Saeed
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Book Rating:



Self-Evaluation: _____



Pretend you are drawing with chalk under the Together Tree. Write or draw something that would make others feel welcome to join you at recess.

LS5.b Identify real-life connections between words and their use

Date: _____

Narwhal, Unicorn of the Arctic

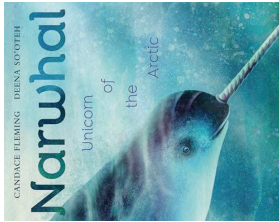
Written by Candace Fleming
Illustrated by Deena So'Oteh

Book Rating:



Using evidence from the book, draw and label (2) of the narwhal's predators.

Self-Evaluation: _____



Predator #1

Predator #2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.2.SL.2 - Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

The Man Who Didn't Like Animals

Written by Deborah Underwood
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Book Rating:



List how Old Mac changed his opinion in order.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

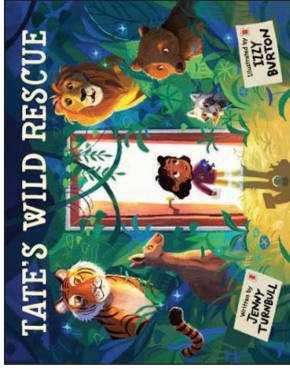
Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

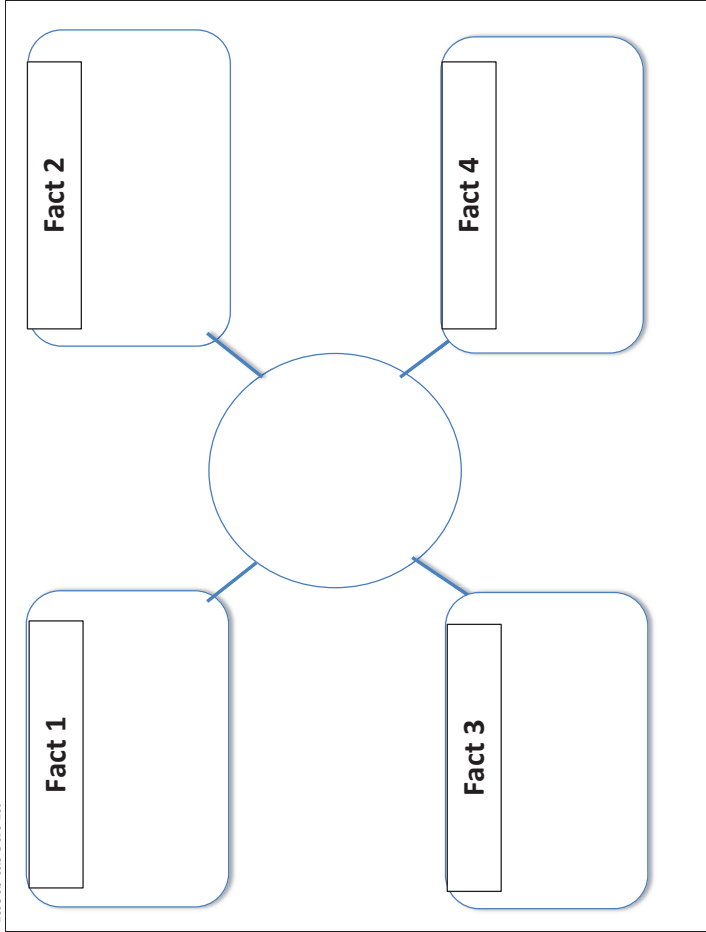
Tate's Wild Rescue

Written by Jerry Tumbull
Illustrated by Izzy Burton

Book Rating:



Using a database or a nonfiction book, research a Wild Animal & fill out the graphic organizer with 4 facts about it.



CCSS.ELA-INFORMATIONAL.RI.2.7 Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how something works) contribute to and clarify a text.
CCSS.ELA-INFORMATIONAL.W.3.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.

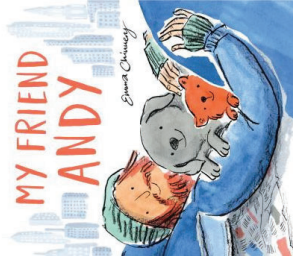
Date: _____ Self-Evaluation: _____

My Friend Andy
Written & Illustrated by Emma Chinnery

Book Rating:



Andy and his dad showed kindness to Fluffy.
Write about a time when someone showed unexpected kindness to you.



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.2.3 - Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3 - Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

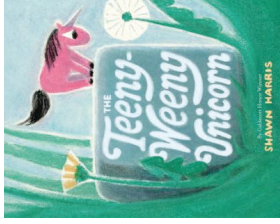
Date: _____ Self-Evaluation: _____

The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn
Written and Illustrated by Shawn Harris

Book Rating:



Write a paragraph about a time you felt too little. If you like, you can add an illustration.



W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

Date: _____ Self-Evaluation: _____

Log Life

Written and Illustrated by Amy Hevron

Book Rating:



First, illustrate the life cycle of a nurse log. Then, write the stages of a nurse log, using the information from the story. Make sure you use time order words (First, Next, Then, Finally) in your writing.

The Life Cycle of a Nurse Log

Year 1	Year 10	Year 100	Year 500

The Life Cycle Stages

CCSS.ELA- LITERACY RI.2.7 Explain how specific images contribute to and clarify a text.
CCSS.ELA- LITERACY RI.3.3 Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

Date: _____ Self-Evaluation: _____

I'm Sorry You Got Mad

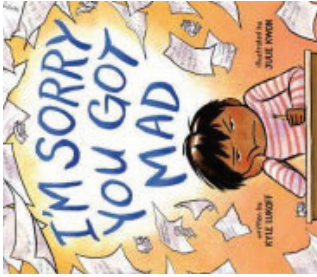
Written by Kyle Lukoff
Illustrated by Julie Kwon

Book Rating:



Think of a time you made a mistake. Write a 3 part apology letter that includes:

- 1) what you did (Acknowledge)
- 2) that you are sorry (Apologize) and
- 3) what you will do to fix it (Act)



Dear _____,

Sincerely,

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.4 With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose.

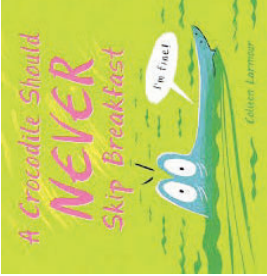
Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

A Crocodile Should Never Skip Breakfast

Written and Illustrated by Colleen Larmour

Book Rating:



How does Crocodile feel at the beginning, middle and end of the story?
Draw a quick sketch of each feeling.

Beginning	Middle	End

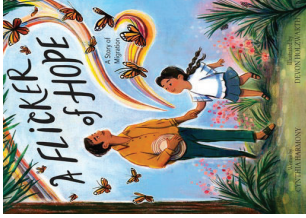
2.RL.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

A Flicker of Hope

Written by *Cynthia Harmony*

Illustrated by *Devon Holzwarth*

Book Rating:



In the story, Lucia says she feels worried about whether or not her Papa will come back. What does she do to feel better? Why does it make her feel better?

CCSS.ELA.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

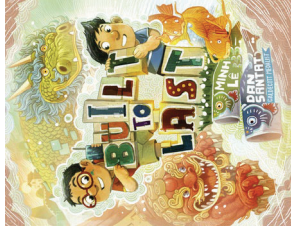
Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

Built to Last

Written by Minh Le
Illustrated by Dan Santat

Book Rating:



Answer the question in the space below. What do you think is the best thing the friends built together in the story? Why do you think that?

CCSS.ELA.W.3.1 Write opinion pieces on topics or text, supporting a point of view with reasons.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

I Know How to Draw an Owl

Written by Hilary Huppely
Illustrated by Matt James

Book Rating:



Near the end of the book, Belle thought of her owl and what she could do. Name three things she could do to help the new boy.

1.

2.

3.

Can you draw an animal using shapes like Belle's teacher (ovals, circles, etc.)?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

Parrotfish Has a Superpower

Written by Jill Esbaum
Illustrated by Bob Shea

Book Rating:



Draw a picture of the parrotfish and write three facts you learned.

Three facts about parrotfish in complete sentences:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

W.3.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey information clearly.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

The Midnight Panther

Written and Illustrated by Poonam Mistry

Book Rating:



What is the main message or moral in this story? What did the wind, sun, and moon contribute to the story? How did the Panther feel at the end of the story? Write your ideas here:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

We Are Definitely Human

Written & Illustrated by X. Fang

Book Rating:



How would this story be different if Mr. and Mrs. Li were NOT welcoming to the visitors? Imagine an alternative beginning, middle, and end to the story. Draw a comic of what might happen if they were Mr. and Mrs. Li showed FEAR instead of KINDNESS. Add speech bubbles to show what they might say.



BEGINNING	MIDDLE		END

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3.b Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

Cookie Time

Written and Illustrated by Jessie Sima

Book Rating:



Design your perfect cookie. Write a list of ingredients that you would include, then draw a picture of how it would look.

WS.1: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

The Bakery Dragon

Written by Devin Kurtz

Illustrated by Devin Kurtz



Book Rating:



Draw your own dragon. Leave space at the bottom to tell your dragon's name.

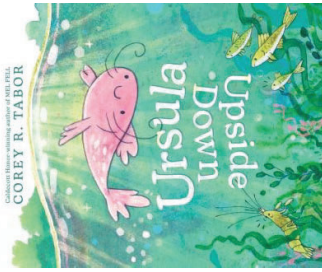
2.RL.7: Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

Date: _____

Self-Evaluation: _____

Ursula Upside Down

Written & Illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



Book Rating:



Describe how Ursula felt when she flipped right side up. Why did she feel that way (use evidence from the book). Then write how her feelings changed when she flipped upside down again.

The first time Ursula flipped, she felt _____

because _____

When Ursula flipped upside down again, she felt _____

I know this because it says in the book, _____

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.2.3 - Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.3 - Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events