

WASHINGTON CHILDREN'S CHOICE
PICTURE BOOK AWARD

2024 ACTIVITY PACKET



Abdul's Story

Written By: Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

Illustrated By: Tiffany Rose

Synopsis: Abdul loves telling stories but thinks his messy handwriting and spelling mistakes will keep him from becoming an author, until Mr. Muhammad visits and encourages him to persist.

Suggested Reading Date: National Letter Writing Day - December 7, 2023

Activity Descriptions:

- Students can pretend to use erasers every time they hear the word erase in the story – TPR movements;
- Have students draw pictures of what they want to write about – brainstorm ideas together;
- Perfect time for an author visit;
- Have students design their own journals;
- Teach how to write a book review using the template below.

Related Websites:

- Author's website & resources: <https://jamilahthewriter.com/educators/>
- Illustrator's profile: https://aalbc.com/authors/author.php?author_name=Tiffany+Rose
- Book Review Unit Lesson: <https://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/thumbs-students-writing-publishing>
- Book Review template: https://www.readwritethink.org/sites/default/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson976/template.pdf

Text to Text Connections:

My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World by Malcolm Mitchell

Linus the Little Yellow Pencil by Scott Magoon

Perfect by Max Amato

Eraser by Anna Kang

The Story of a Story by Deborah Hopkinson

The Best Story by Eileen Spinelli

Bears Make the Best Writing Buddies by Carmen Oliver

Created By: Jolyn Danielson

Because Claudette

Written By: Tracey Baptiste

Illustrated By: Tonya Engel

Synopsis: A picture book about Claudette Colvin, the teen whose activism launched the Montgomery bus boycott, and a celebration of collective action.

Suggested Reading Date: March 2nd- Claudette Colvin Day; March (Women's History Month); February (Black History Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss the word "because." What does it mean? Why is it important in the title?
- Discuss "activism." How can you be an activist?
- Create a timeline of the events leading up to and including the Montgomery Bus Boycott.
- Research and learn about the life of Claudette Colvin.
- Research and learn about the life of Rosa Parks.
- Compare and contrast the background and impact of Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks.

Related Websites:

- Tracey Baptiste's website: <https://traceybaptiste.com/>
- Tonya Engel's website: <https://tonyaengel.com/>
- Read Along, Draw Along: Because Claudette - video from Crayola includes author reading of the book and a draw along: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM4di_3GLqE
- Link to a video interview with Claudette Colvin and a radio interview: <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/claurette-colvin/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *She Persisted: Claudette Colvin* by Lesa Cline-Ransome & Chelsea Clinton
- *Claudette Colvin Refuses to Move: Courageous Kids of the Civil Rights Movement* by Ebony Joy Wilkins
- *Pies From Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott* by Dee Romito
- *The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Right's Activist* by Cynthia Levinson
- *Let The Children March* by Monica Clark-Robinson

Created By: Angela Albrecht

The Boy Who Loved Maps

Written By: Kari Allen

Illustrated By: G. Brian Karas

Synopsis: A map-making boy is stumped when a girl asks him for a map of the “perfect place.”

Suggested Reading Date: April 5 - National Read a Road Map Day; October 14 – Geologic Map Day; May 6 – National Cartography Day

Activity Descriptions:

- **Make a Map:** Make a map of your community, neighborhood, school, playground, classroom, and/or library. The options are endless!
- **Types of Maps:** Bring in and share different types of maps: topographical, geological, road, political, physical, weather, etc.
- **Maps vs. Globe:** Create a chart or Venn diagram exploring the differences and similarities between a map and a globe.
- **Library of Congress Map Collection:** Explore the maps online through the Library of Congress (link in related websites below).

Related Websites:

- Library of Congress General Maps: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/general-maps/about-this-collection/>
- Washington State Library Historical Maps: <https://www.sos.wa.gov/legacy/maps/maps.aspx>
- Video - “Types of Maps.” Good for teacher librarians to gain background information: <https://youtu.be/dwWrrjFgH3o>

Text to Text Connections:

The Epic Adventures of Huggie and Stick by Drew Daywalt
Sloth and Squirrel in a Pickle by Cathy Ballou Mealey
Maddi's Fridge by Lois Brandt

Created By: Dave Sonnen

Chester van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme

Written By: Avery Monsen

Illustrated By: Abby Hanlon

Synopsis: Rhyming has always come easily to Chester van Chime. But one day he loses his gift and struggles to find the right words.

Suggested Reading Date: National No Rhyme (Nor Reason) Day – Sept. 1; National Rhyming Day – July 20th; National Poetry Month – April

Activity Descriptions:

- During the read aloud, have students say what the rhyming word should have been.
- Have students come up with their own ways to describe words that don't rhyme as Chester did and then have other students guess what the rhyming word should be.
- Teach what rhyming means:
 - Video that teaches about rhyming <https://youtu.be/tiqr-asB1z0>
- Have students practice finding rhyming words:
 - Video to guess the rhyming words <https://youtu.be/uWHPH3WMjME>
 - PBS Rhyming game: <https://pbskids.org/games/rhyming/>
- Have students discuss their favorite hobby and how they would feel if they could no longer do that activity anymore and relate to how Chester felt when he lost his ability to rhyme.
- Discuss what to do when you are having an "off-day." Invite community members in creative fields such as poets, artists, chefs, and performers to talk with students about their work and how they handle setbacks.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.averymonsen.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <http://www.abbyhanlon.com/>
- Storytime Kit from Hachette Book Group: https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Chester-Van-Chime-Activity-Kit.pdf?_ga=2.76533973.119096193.1665107561-1743229052.1661398281
- Teaching Tips from Little, Brown, and Company: <https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PR6043-Chester-Van-Chime-Teaching-Tips-final.pdf>
- Book Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/635436855>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Rhyming Dust Bunnies* by Jan Thomas
- *Frog on a Log?* by Kes Gray & Jim Field
- *Ricky, the Rock Who Just Couldn't Rhyme* by Mr. Jay

Created By: Alicia Rogers

Chez Bob

Written and Illustrated By: Bob Shea

Synopsis: A lazy alligator comes up with a plan to lure his prey by opening a restaurant for birds. Eventually, he realizes that birds are even better as friends.

Suggested Reading Date: May 29 – National Alligator Day; September 12 – Alligator Awareness Day; October 24 – National Food Day

Activity Descriptions:

- **Restaurant Menus:** Share some menus from local restaurants. Have students create their own menu for a restaurant they would like open!
- **Recipes:** Share recipes and how they are formatted (title, ingredients, step-by-step instructions, etc.) Have students create their own imaginary recipe.
- **Research:** Research alligators. Pair with a non-fiction book about alligators.

Related Websites:

- Downloadable Storytime Kit from the Publisher:
<https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Chez-Bob-Downloadable-Storytime-Kit.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

Aaligator! By Judith Henderson

Claude: The True Story of a White Alligator by Emma Bland Smith

Gator Gumbo: a Spicy-Hot Tale by Candace Fleming

The Three Little Gators by Helen Ketteman

If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't by Elise Parsley

Created By: Dave Sonnen

Chickadee: Criminal Mastermind

Written By: Monica Silvie

Illustrated By: Elina Ellis

Synopsis: Chickadee recounts how he went from a normal bird 'childhood' to a daring life of crime. One cold, snowy morning, shivering and hungry, he discovers a vault of gold--and steals from it! His natural coloring resembling a mask helps him blend in as he makes his rounds of the forest. It's an exciting life, with hawks to fend off and treasure to hide all over the forest... but is it as glamorous as it appears?

Suggested Reading Date: January 5th – National Bird Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss how Chickadee's perspective of himself changed after he learned what a bird feeder was.
- Learn about the synonyms criminal mastermind, bandit, villain, rascalion, bad seed, thief, etc. and discuss differences between the words.
- Discuss local common birds and what bird seed is best for them.
- Have students make bird feeders:
 - "How-to" video: https://youtu.be/99Dm4hCuh_w
 - 32 Birdfeeder Templates: <https://happyhooligans.ca/32-homemade-bird-feeders/>
- Study chickadees and the various sounds they make including the Feebee Song which sounds like "cheeseburger": <https://youtu.be/NnrX1f6QqM>
- Create a chickadee puppet craft: <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/81006/chickadee-shapes-craft/>

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.monicasilvie.com>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.elinaellis.com/>
- Wild Kratts Video about Chickadees: <https://youtu.be/BY6Poom4WKo>
- Chickadee coloring page: <https://www.birdwatchingacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/BLACK-CAPPED-CHICKADEE-Coloring-Pages.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

The Bad Seed by Jory John

Nerdy Birdy by Aaron Reynolds

Knight Owl by Christopher Denise

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems

Created By: Alicia Rogers

The Creature of Habit

Written By: Jennifer E. Smith

Illustrated By: Leo Espinosa

Synopsis: A very big creature with big teeth, big eyes, and very big feet lives on the island of Habit. Everyday the creature happily does the exact same things in the exact same order. A small creature arrives on the island. The big creature is excited to share his routine, but the small creature has ideas of his own. Can these two creatures learn to understand each other? Is the island big enough for both of them?

Suggested Reading Date: January (resolutions); September (routines)

Activity Descriptions:

- Make a list of “new things” to try in your community, your school, at home.
- Make a list of routine changes to try.
- Make a “creature feature” headband, like rabbit ears.
- Make your own “creature” using recycled items.
- Take an “Are You A Creature of Habit” quiz:
<https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/h/bn-storytime/2022/3-5-The-Creature-of-Habit.pdf>

Related Websites:

- Jennifer E. Smith: <https://www.jenniferesmith.com/>
- Leo Espinosa: <https://studioespinosa.com/>
- Creature of Habit Author Read Aloud with Jennifer E Smith (Brightly Storytime), <https://youtu.be/AkbeDTtWEpk>
- The Creature of Habit activities:
<https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/h/bn-storytime/2022/3-5-The-Creature-of-Habit.pdf>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Dude!* by Aaron Reynolds & Dan Santat
- *The Duck Who Didn't Like Water* by Steve Small
- *Duck and Penguin Do NOT Like Sleepovers* by Julia Woolf
- *Something Beautiful* by Lita Judge

Created By: Roman Maunupau

Except Antarctica!

Written and Illustrated By: Todd Sturgell

Synopsis: Many animals can be found on every continent except Antarctica, where Emperor penguins are the only native species. As the narrator attempts to give animal facts, Turtle disrupts the narrator, takes over the story, and embarks on a journey with six other animals to Antarctica.

Suggested Reading Date: International Animal Day, October 4; Antarctica Day, December 1; National Penguin Awareness Day, January 20; National Animal Day, March 14

Activity Descriptions:

- Except Antarctica! Educator's Guide: <https://exceptantarctica.com/resources/ExceptAntarctica-EducatorsGuide.pdf>
- Discuss Animal Habitats
- Map where the animals from the story live
- Discuss animal adaptations: how do some animals live in Antarctica?

Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website: <https://toddsturgell.com/>
- Educator resources from Todd Sturgell: <https://toddsturgell.com/except-antarctica-educator-resources>

Text to Text Connections:

The Panda Problem by Deborah Underwood

Chester by Melanie Watt

A Perfectly Messed Up Story by Patrick McDonnell

This is Not That Kind of Book by Christopher Healy

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein

Friends are Friends, Forever

Written By: Dane Liu

Illustrated By: Lynn Scurfield

Synopsis: Just before Chinese New Year, Dandan discovers that her family is moving to America, far away from her best friend Yueyue; before they leave Yueyue gives her a stack of red paper and a spool of string so she can share the art of paper cutting with Americans--and when Chinese New Year comes around again Dandan remembers Yueyue's gift and introduces her new friend Christina to this ancient art.

Suggested Reading Date: Snowflake Season (December, January, February); Lunar New Year, February 10, 2024; National Make a Friend Day, February 11, 2024

Activity Descriptions:

- Make Paper Snowflakes:
 - How to make a Paper Snowflake with Plain Paper: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-make-paper-snowflake>
 - 12 Printable Templates: <https://superstarworksheets.com/templates/paper-snowflake-templates/>
- Discuss traditions – there are traditions specific to holidays and some that are specific to individual families. What traditions would you like to create (at home, at school, etc)?
- Lunar New Year Coloring Sheets, Crayola: <https://www.crayola.com/free-coloring-pages/holidays/lunar-new-year-coloring-pages/>
- Watch and Discuss Kid President's Guide to Making a New Friend: <https://youtu.be/OoHdwUEfBts>

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <https://www.daneliu.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <http://www.lynnscurlfield.com/>
- Interview with Dane Liu and Lynn Scurfield, from Politics and Prose: <https://youtu.be/0aybPFdHjWw>

Text to Text Connections:

Bad Bye, Good Bye by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Jonathan Bean
Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin

The Blue House by Phoebe Wahl

Chloe's Lunar New Year by Lily LaMotte, illustrated by Michelle Lee

Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away by Meg Medina, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

New Year by Rich Lo

Playing with Lanterns by Wang Yage, illustrated by Zhu Chengliang, translated by Helen Wang

A Sweet New Year for Ren by Michelle Sterling

This Next New Year by Janet S. Wong, illustrated by Yangsook Choi

Created By: Erin Quarterman

Frog vs. Toad

Written and Illustrated By: Ben Mantle

Synopsis: As things get a bit heated among the amphibian population in the swamp, rivals Frog and Toad must cast their differences aside and work together when they have a close encounter with a snappy alligator.

Suggested Reading Date: World Frog Day is March 20th. World Kindness Day is November 13th. This is also a great book at the beginning of the year as students get to know each other and you are trying to build community within your school.

Activity Descriptions:

- Compare and contrast the differences and similarities between a frog and toad.
- Frog and Toad as well as Alligator and Crocodile are misunderstood and argue. Talk about a time where you might have been misunderstood and have argued with someone.
- Explore the life cycle of a frog (see link below).
- Make an origami jumping frog (see link below).
- Draw a Cartoon Frog (see link below).

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://thebrightagency.com/uk/childrens-illustration/artists/ben-mantle>
- Facts About Frogs: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/frog/353154>
- Facts About Toads: <https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/toad/390140>
- Lifecycle of a Frog: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/nature/frog-life-cycle/>
- Origami Jumping Frog: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rht7y5kooJQ>
- How to Draw a Cartoon Frog: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_kovglf_eM

Text to Text Connections: *I Don't Want to Be a Frog* by Dev Petty, *Finklehopper Frog* by Irene Livingston, *Frog and Toad are Friends* by Arnold Lobel, *I Want That Nut* by Madeline Valentine, and *Neck and Neck* by Elise Parsley

Created By: Stephanie Wilson

Growing an Artist

Written and Illustrated By: John Parra

Synopsis: Today Juanito is accompanying his father who is in the landscaping business, and he takes his sketchbook along to draw anything that catches his eye, and gets to help his father plan an entire garden--and then help plant it.

Suggested Reading Date: Sep 15, 2023 - Sun, Oct 15, 2023 (Hispanic Heritage Month); April (National Landscape Architecture Month); Earth Day, April 15, 2024

Activity Descriptions:

- Watch *Zoo Jobs: Meet a Landscape Architect* from the Smithsonian and brainstorm other special places that need landscape architecture: <https://youtu.be/3tJkOjXqQQM>
- Read this book outside and/or brainstorm how you could make a "Reading Garden" in your outdoor space.
- Discuss what jobs are "important" and "unimportant." How should you show respect and kindness to people who do all kinds of jobs, whether we think they are important or not?
- Discuss why Alex ignores Juanito. Ask if they have ever ignored someone? How would they feel if they were Alex? How would they feel if they were Juanito?
- Multiple Activity ideas from Read Across America: <https://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america/find-your-book/growing-artist-story-landscaper-and-his-son-cultivando-un-artista>

Related Websites:

- Author/Illustrator Website: <https://johnparraart.com/>
- Teaching Guide from the Publisher: https://d28hgpr8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/10554475/9781534469273_cg_growing%20an%20artist%20guide.pdf
- Growing an Artist Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CXu6jI0jXv4>

Text to Text Connections:

The Curious Garden by Peter Brown

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart and illustrated by David Small

A Green Place to Be: The Creation of Central Park by Ashley Benham Yazdani

Linus: The Little Yellow Pencil by Scott Magoon

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero and illustrated by Zeke Peña

Maybe Something Beautiful by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael López

Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler and illustrated by Loren Long

Created By: Erin Quarterman

Hamsters Make Terrible Roommates

Written By: Cheryl B. Klein

Illustrated By: Abhi Alwar

Synopsis: Henry is desperate for a little peace and quiet from his extremely chatty roommate Marvin, and after Henry finally loses his cool, these hamsters must find ways to compromise and live together.

Suggested Reading Date: World Communication Week – November 1st through 7th; World Hamster Day – April 12th

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss what was the problem in the book? What was the solution?
- Have students reflect on whether they tend to like quiet or loud things to do and define introversion and extroversion.
- Create a tip list for how to get along better with others.
- Connect the story to classroom charters or agreements.
- Have students compare the front and back endpapers and share what they notice is different.
- Have kids practice communicating with a partner about whether they like it noisy or quiet while eating, reading or working, and playing. You could even do a class graph.
- Reread and discuss Marvin and Henry's apologies - how they are specific and helped them understand the problem and find a solution.
- Hamster art! Have kids draw hamsters. (See video links below.)

Related Websites:

- Author Website: <http://www.cherylklein.com/>
- Illustrator Website: <https://www.abhialwar.com/>
- Easy hamster drawing video: <https://youtu.be/0YrtugKbLpI>
- Slightly harder Hamster drawing video: https://youtu.be/Ct9-n8CHI_w

Text to Text Connections:

- *Louder, Lili* by Gennifer Choldenko
- *Memoirs of a Hamster* by Devin Scillian
- *Linus the Little Yellow Pencil* by Scott Magoon
- *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty
- *The Invisible Boy* by Trudy Ludwig
- *Interrupting Chicken* by David Ezra Stein

Created By: Paula Wittmann

How to Party Like a Snail

Written By: Naseem Hrab

Illustrated By: Kelly Collier

Synopsis: Snail loves the quiet things about parties, like confetti and the silence before everyone yells, "surprise!", and decides to plan his own party without any loud noises, but when he feels like something is missing, he discovers he may long for the "loud" after all.

Suggested Reading Date: National Snail Day is May 29th. International Friendship Day is July 30th. This book might be a good fit at the beginning of the year when building community with classes and recognizing that everyone is different.

Activity Descriptions:

- Plan the ultimate party. Have students work in small groups and create a pretend party with a theme, food, and activities.
- Compare and contrast what students like about parties and what they dislike about parties.
- Compare and contrast what is fun about a loud party and what is fun about a small party.
- Design a party hat for Snail.
- Show some snail appreciation and fold a snail with snail origami (link below).
- Play different types of music and have the class decide if the music is for a "Snail Party" or a "Loud Party." Extra bonus points for having students move to the music.
- Design a card for Snail in wishing him a Happy Birthday.

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.naseemhrab.com/>
- Illustrator's Website through Kids Can Press: <https://www.kidscanpress.com/Creators/kelly-collier/>
- Discussion Guide and Activity Packet Through Owlkids Books: <https://owlkidsbooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/HOW-TO-PARTY-LIKE-A-SNAIL-DISCUSSION-GUIDE-.pdf>
- Snail Origami: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLIrkTJaGYI>

Text to Text Connections: *Escargot* by Dashka Slater, *Snail Crossing* by Corey R. Tabor, *Cyril and Pat* by Emily Gravett, *Stick and Stone* by Beth Ferry

Created By: Stephanie Wilson

Knight Owl

Written and Illustrated By: Christopher Denise

Synopsis: Owl works hard to become a knight, but will he be able to call upon a knight's bravery and cleverness when faced with a hungry dragon?

Suggested Reading Date: Appropriate for the PBIS traits of Perseverance (January) and Courage (April); also a good tie-in for thematic units around nocturnal animals and birds, or for the International Festival of Owls the first week of March.

Activity Descriptions:

- Create a list of homophones with the students (for example, knight/night, waist/waste, prints/prince): <https://homophonelist.com/homophones-list/>
- Share jokes and puns where homophones are the punchline ("Why was six afraid of seven? Because seven ATE nine!"). Some Examples: <https://homophonelist.com/homophone-jokes/>
- Because of their shape and how large their eyes are, owls are one of the easier animals to draw—several how-to videos are available online, including this one from Art for Kids Hub: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsDQNYAOitU>

Related Websites:

- Christopher Denise's website: <https://www.christopherdenise.com/>
- The International Festival of Owls: <https://www.festivalofowls.com/>
- Owls of Washington: <http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/owls.html>
- Knights: <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/castles/knights/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Amelia Bedelia* series by Peggy Parrish
- *No Reading Allowed* by Raj Haldar (author of *P is for Pterodactyl*)
- *How Much Can a Bare Bear Bear?* By Brian P. Cleary

Created By: Ryan Grant

Nigel and the Moon

Written By: Antwan Eady

Illustrated By: Gracey Zhang

Synopsis: It's Career Day at school, but Nigel doesn't know what he wants to be, and he's not sure that what his parents do is enough to impress the kids in his class.

Suggested Reading Date: With the focus on jobs, this would be an appropriate tie-in for Labor Day (9/4/23), May Day (5/1/24), or any kind of Career Day event your school may do.

Activity Descriptions:

- Have a conversation about careers and future planning, as illustrated in the book, for text to self connection
- Have students suggest careers and share what it takes to join the profession and what exactly those careers do.
- Have a Career Day with speakers from the community sharing about the jobs they do!
- Nigel shares his secrets with the moon; you can make a connection between that and the idea of a Worry Stone: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worry_stone

Related Websites:

- Antwan Eady's author page: <https://www.antwaneady.com/>
- Gracey Zhang's illustrator page: <http://www.graceyzhang.com/>
- Career Day Activities for Kids: <https://speechsprouts.com/5-ideas-for-career-day-at-school-youll-love/>
- Harper-Collins Teaching Guide: <https://www.harpercollins.com/products/nigel-and-the-moon-antwan-eady?variant=39351649796130>

Text to Text Connections:

- *The Paper Kingdom* by Helena Ku Rhee
- *Ruby Finds a Worry* by Tom Percival
- *Me and My Fear* by Francesca Sanna
- *The Rabbit Listened* by Cori Doerrfeld

Created By: Ryan Grant

Powwow Day

Written By: Traci Sorell

Illustrated By: Madelyn Goodnight

Synopsis: River wants so badly to dance at powwow day as she does every year. In this uplifting and contemporary picture book perfect for beginning readers, follow River's journey from feeling isolated after an illness to learning the healing power of community.

Suggested Reading Date: October 12 (Indigenous People's Day); November (Native American Heritage Month)

Activity Descriptions:

- Make and play a Ball & Triangle game. IllumiNative - Penobscot Nation Youth Ball & Triangle Game: https://illuminative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Activity-3-PK-2_-NIEA-Illuminative_Ball_Triangle-Game-Activity.pdf
- Do a gratitude or act of kindness activity (Greater Good in Education): <https://ggie.berkeley.edu/collection/helping-students-feel-connected-to-each-other/>
- Learn the Native tribe(s) & language(s) spoken in your area. Research some basic words and their pronunciation with students: <https://native-land.ca>
- Learn about the importance of the talking stick in many Native American cultures. Have students make their own (IllumiNative): https://illuminative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Activity-16-PK-2_-NIEA-Illuminative_Making-a-Talking-Stick-The-Legend-Behind-the-Talking-Feather.pdf

Related Websites:

- Traci Sorell's website: <https://www.tracisorell.com>
- Madelyn Goodnight's website: <https://www.madelyngoodnight.com>
- Powwow Day Activity Kit from Charlesbridge: <https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0750/0101/files/powwow-day-activity-guide.pdf>
- Powwow Trail | The Ways (PBS Video): <https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/the-ways-powwow-trail/wpt-education/>
- Jingle Dress Dance: <https://www.powwows.com/jingle-dress-dance/>
- Native American Games by Tribe: <https://nativeamericans.mrdonn.org/games.html>
- IllumiNative - Native American Lesson Plans: <https://illuminative.org/resources/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *Bowwow Powwow* by Brenda Child
- *Fry Bread* by Kevin Noble Maillard
- *First Laugh* by Rose Ann Tahe
- *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom
- *Raven* by Gerald McDermott
- *The First Blade of Sweetgrass* by Suzanne Greenlaw

Created By: Roman Maunupau

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Written By: Mac Barnett

Illustrated By: Jon Klassen

Synopsis: Based on the Norwegian fairy tale, Mac Barnett retells the story as a fractured fairy tale. The three billy goats want to graze on a grassy ridge, but first they must cross the troll's bridge!

Suggested Reading Date: Tell a Fairy Tale Day, February 26; Read Across America, March 2; (Outside the school year: National Troll Day, June 4; World Goat Day, August 21)

Activity Descriptions:

- While reading, discuss onomatopoeia, asking students to identify it in the story.
- Read other versions of the **traditional** fairy tale, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and compare them, illustrators include Paul Galdone, Jerry Pinkney, and Stephen Carpenter.
- Read other versions as a **fractured** fairy tale, examples include:
The Three Billy Goats Fluff, by Rachael Mortimer
Listen, My Bridge is So Cool!, by Nancy Loewen

Related Websites:

- Author's Website: <https://www.macbarnett.com/>
- Illustrator's Website: <https://www.imjonklassen.com/>
- Author and Illustrator book trailer: <https://youtu.be/pjT5oBdeFww>
- Author and Illustrator read the book: https://youtu.be/w9Pf1wYzh_Q
- PBS's Super Why, The Three Billy Goats Gruff (starts at 3:35):
<https://kcts9.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/c13341b2-5a09-4dcb-aecf-9cdbe10c4c44/c13341b2-5a09-4dcb-aecf-9cdbe10c4c44/>

Text to Text Connections:

- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Paul Carpenter
- *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Jerry Pinkney
- *The Three Billy Goats Fluff* by Rachael Mortimer
- *Listen, My Bridge is So Cool!* by Nancy Loewen
- *Frederico and the Wolf* by Rebecca Gomez
- *The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf* by Mark Teague

Created By: Jerilyn Gerhardstein

The Very True Legend of the Mongolian Death Worms

Written and Illustrated By: Sandra Fay

Synopsis: A funny picture book celebrating the universal truth about wanting to be loved just as you are, fangs and all, inspired by the real-life legend of Mongolian Death Worms.

Suggested Reading Date: October 11th - Myths & Legends Day; March 20th - World Storytelling Day

Activity Descriptions:

- Discuss legends and folklore. (What is true? What is fiction?)
- Brainstorm possible myths/legends to create (ex: How dragons came to breathe fire?)
- Create/write a myth or a legend.
- Compare and contrast Mongolian Death Worms with Bigfoot or another mythical creature.
- Research the Gobi desert's habitat and animal life.

Related Websites:

- Author's Instagram page: https://www.instagram.com/sandra_fay/?hl=en
- Author's webpage: <https://sandrafay.com/>
- Video of author reading her book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0DIeNKpuU0>

Text to Text Connections:

- *The Worm Family Has Its Picture Taken* by Jennifer Frank and David Ezra Stein
- *Monsters 101* by Cale Atkinson
- *Unicorns 101* by Cale Atkinson
- *Legendary Creatures: Mythical Beasts and Spirits From Around the World* by Adam Auerbach
- *The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures* by Dk and Stephen Krensky

Created By: Angela Albrecht

A Walk in the Words

Written and Illustrated By: Hudson Talbott

Synopsis: Through a story from his own childhood, Hudson Talbott shares the challenges--and ultimately the rewards--of being a non-mainstream kind of learner.

Suggested Reading Date: October (Learning Disability Month) or Children's Book Week (Nov. 6th through 11th).

Activity Descriptions:

- Have a discussion and celebrate the strengths that the main character brings to his learning such as perseverance, creativity, determination, joy and curiosity and how they helped him succeed as a learner.
- Brainstorm learning tasks that can be overwhelming and talk about strategies to address them such as visualization, breaking things into chunks, or figuring out a timeline.
- Share learning support tools such as databases and ebooks with reading supports and audiobooks.
- Research or discuss the people in the "Slow Reader Hall of Fame" illustration. This might be a good time to introduce a database or online encyclopedia.
- Celebrate different ways of telling stories (storytelling, text, illustrations, movies etc.)
- Introduce the Schneider Family Book Awards (this was a 2022 Honor Book).
- Have students choose and illustrate a word like Talbott does on the 2nd page.

Related Websites:

- Author/illustrator Website: https://www.hudsonalbott.com/1/menu2.html#e_6
- Interview with Hudson Talbott (aimed more for adults but has some good kid-friendly bits): <https://youtu.be/fs4aPpfgZbo>
- Schneider Family Book Awards Home: <https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/schneider-family-book-award>

Text to Text Connections:

How to Solve a Problem: the Rise (and Falls) of a Rock Climbing Champion by Ashima Shiraishi

Above the Rim by Jen Bryant

My Very Favorite Book in the Whole Wide World by Malcolm Mitchell

Back to Front and Upside Down by Claire Alexander

Created By: Paula Wittmann

Yoshi and the Ocean: A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home

Written & Illustrated By: Lindsay Moore

Synopsis: Yoshi, a loggerhead sea turtle, was injured and rescued by fisherman who took her to the Two Oceans Aquarium in South Africa for rehabilitation. After twenty years, Yoshi was returned to the sea and traveled nearly 23,000 miles over three years back to what is believed to be her birthplace.

Suggested Reading Date: World Sea Turtle Day – June 16, World Aquatic Animal Day – April 3

Activity Descriptions:

- Become a Scientist and complete Sea turtle research (different types) using your library's databases
- Sequence the life cycle of a sea turtle (below)
- Use a map of the world to track where Yoshi and/or sea turtles migrate to and from;
- Use pop bottle caps to show how tiny sea turtle are when they are born.

Related Websites:

- Author's website & resources: <https://www.lindsaykmoore.com/>
- National Geographic - Sea Turtle Facts: <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/sea-life/green-sea-turtle-facts/>
- Sea Turtle Life Cycle: <https://kidspressmagazine.com/science-for-kids/misc/misc/life-cycle-sea-turtles.html>
- Two Oceans Aquarium – Yoshi's last transmission: <https://www.aquarium.co.za/news/yoshi-the-loggerhead-turtle-sends-her-last-transmission-after-40-000km-swim>

Text to Text Connections:

Alfie, The Turtle that Disappeared by Thyra Heder

One Tiny Turtle by Nicola Davies

One Turtle's Last Straw: The Real Life Rescue that Sparked a Sea Change by Elisa Boxer

Created By: Jolyn Danielson