WASHINGTON CHILDREN’S CHOICE
PICTURE BOOK AWARD

2024 ACTIVITY PACKET
Abdul’s Story
Written By: Jamila 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

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/claudette-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:
- Video - “Types of Maps.” Good for teacher librarians to gain background information: [https://youtu.be/dwWrrjFgH3o](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:
  o Video that teaches about rhyming https://youtu.be/tiqr-asB1z0
• Have students practice finding rhyming words:
  o Video to guess the rhyming words https://youtu.be/uWHPH3WMjME
  o 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/
• 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.

Related Websites:

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, rapscallion, 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:
  o “How-to” video: https://youtu.be/99Dm4hCuh_w
  o 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/NnrxX1f6QqM
• 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

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:

- 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)?

Related Websites:
- Author Website: https://www.daneliu.com/
- Illustrator Website: http://www.lynnscurfield.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
- Origami Jumping Frog: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rht7y5kooJQ
- How to Draw a Cartoon Frog: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_kovqlf_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](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?

**Related Websites:**
- Author/Illustrator Website: [https://johnparraart.com/](https://johnparraart.com/)
- Teaching Guide from the Publisher: [https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/10554475/9781534469273_cg_growing%20an%20artist%20guide.pdf](https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/10554475/9781534469273_cg_growing%20an%20artist%20guide.pdf)
- Growing an Artist Book Trailer: [https://www.youtube.com/shorts/CXu6jI0jXv4](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/
- Snail Origami: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLIrkJYaGYI

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/](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/](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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wsDQNYAOitU)

**Related Websites:**
- Christopher Denise’s website: [https://www.christopherdenise.com/](https://www.christopherdenise.com/)
- The International Festival of Owls: [https://www.festivalofowls.com/](https://www.festivalofowls.com/)

**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/

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](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/](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](https://native-land.ca)

**Related Websites:**
- Traci Sorell’s website: [https://www.tracisorell.com](https://www.tracisorell.com)
- Madelyn Goodnight’s website: [https://www.madelyngoodnight.com](https://www.madelyngoodnight.com)
- Native American Games by Tribe: [https://nativeamericans.mrdonn.org/games.html](https://nativeamericans.mrdonn.org/games.html)
- IllumiNative - Native American Lesson Plans: [https://illuminative.org/resources/](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-9cdebe10c4c44/c13341b2-5a09-4dcb-aecf-9cdebe10c4c44/

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.hudsontalbott.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/
- 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