



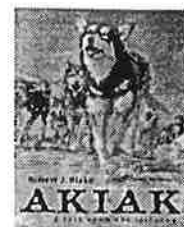
2000

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award Nominees and Activities



Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod

by Robert Blake



Akiak, the sled dog, refuses to give up after being injured during the Iditarod sled dog race. Akiak knows the miles well. As lead dog, she has raced the incredible trail before, but never won. She is ten years old: if she is going to win, it must be now. When snow hurts her paw on the fourth day out, Mick, her musher, must leave her behind and continue the race without her. The rules are that once a dog is dropped from the race, it may not rejoin the team. But of course, Akiak does not understand the rules. She is the lead dog and her place is with the team. Nothing will stop Akiak from catching up and rejoining her team. The question is, can the team still win?

Activity:

- ➔ Iditarod teaching materials available at 1800-545-6874 (907)373-2710 FAX (907) 373-2712'
 - Plot the route on the Alaska map.
 - Follow the news reports of the IDITAROD race.

Bubba the Cowboy Prince: A Fractured Texas Tale

by Helen Ketteman



Loosely based on "Cinderella," this story is set in Texas, the fairy god-mother is a cow, and the hero, named Bubba, is the stepson of a wicked rancher. Bubba is downtrodden and overworked by his wicked stepdaddy and obnoxious brothers Dwayne and Milton, who spend their days bossing him around. Miz Lureen, a rich and "purty," rancher decides to throw a ball to find herself a "real feller." Bubba has to stay home of course, because he is not fit to go to the ball. But, with the help of his fairy godcow, Bubba attends the ball and dazzles Lureen. She finds the cowboy prince she's always dreamed of and they ride off into the sunset.

Activity:

COMPARING CINDERELLA STORIES

1. List the things that were the same in Bubba the Cowboy Prince and the traditional version of Cinderella story.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. List the things that were different between Bubba the Cowboy Prince and the traditional version of Cinderella story.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Chameleons are Cool

By Martin Jenkins, illustrations by Sue Shields

Martin Jenkins, a Conservation Biologist, introduces young children to numerous astonishing facts about the many kinds of chameleons. Using engaging and lively language, he describes their physical features, diet, behaviors, and their ability to change colors.



Activity:

- Use the book in teaching the six writing traits (especially voice, word choice, and organization). Third graders might use the format to write about a favorite animal, sport, or hobby.
- Model how to use the index found on the back end page. Invite students to select topics of interest and then read the corresponding pages to find the desired information.
- Prior to reading the book, have students brainstorm and web their knowledge of chameleons. After listening to the book, have them create a new web to illustrate what they have learned. Discuss their misconceptions about chameleons.
- Discuss how nonfiction is sometimes illustrated with photographs and at other times with drawings, or paintings. Find illustrations of different types of chameleons to show how Sue Shields has accurately presented chameleons.
- Invite a pet store owner or a zoo docent to bring a chameleon to the classroom or library for the children to observe.

Counting Crocodiles

by Judy Sierra, illustrations by Will Hillenbrand

All monkey has to eat on her little island are sour lemons. One day she spies a banana tree on a faraway island, but the only way to get to it is to navigate the crocodile-infested waters of the Sillabobble Sea. That's no problem when you're a brave and devious monkey who knows how to count to ten and back!

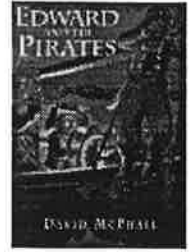


Activity:

- Compare and contrast attributes and habitats of crocodiles and alligators using nonfiction books from your collection.
- Share other rhyming counting books or other counting books that count animals.

Edward and the Pirates

by David McPhail



Edward is a voracious reader of anything he can get his hands on, even seed catalogs in a pinch. One night, while reading a book about pirates, Edward finds himself surrounded by the salty sailors who think his book might tell them where their treasure is buried. They beg, threaten, and bribe him to no avail, but when Edward's father scares the pirates with a shower of arrows, Edward feels sorry for them and relinquishes the book. As it turns out, the pirates can't read, so Edward reads the book aloud to them. Big, dramatic paintings and the rollicking story make this book pure fun.

Activity: This idea comes from The Pirate's Handbook: How to Become Rogue of the High Seas by Margarette Lincoln is full of facts and history about pirate life, as well as fun ideas for any rogue-to-be.

Making a Treasure Map

You will need: medium weight plain paper, colored pencils, a used, slightly damp teabag, ribbon, colored, bakeable modeling clay, and old or new coins, as big as possible.

1. Draw a map of a deserted island. Decide where your camp is. Where do you go to fish for food? Where are the swampy places? Where would you bury any treasure? Put on as many sites as you like.
2. Make your map look old. Bend the corners and tear them a little. Use the teabag (not too wet) to wipe over the drawing. Leave to dry.
3. You could roll up the map, tie ribbon around the outside, and add a seal. Seals can be made from pressing a coin into modeling clay. Remove the coin and bake the clay for about 20 min. Cut a small "V" out of one end of the ribbon and glue the seal close to the other end. Alternatively, you could cut a line at the bottom of your map, and thread your ribbon through this with the seal hanging at the front.

Ginger

by Charlotte Voake



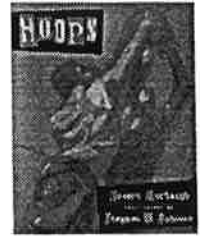
Ginger has a problem. Having lived the luxurious life of a pampered cat, complete with hand-prepared special meals and his own basket, he's suddenly confronted with a kitten in the house. Ginger watches with utter feline disapproval as the kitten leaps out from behind doors, eats his food, and, in a show of phenomenal gall, climbs into Ginger's beautiful basket. Because the little girl who pampers him makes no signs of taking the frenetic little fur ball away, Ginger has no choice but to leave home. The girl retrieves an angry, cold Ginger from under a bush and sadly concludes that the two cats will never be companions. A delightful surprise ending lets us know that there is hope for these two becoming furry friends after all.

Activity:

- Discuss the concept of sharing. Make a pro and con list for sharing space, toys, earth's resources, etc. Draw a conclusion on why learning to share is a life skill.
- Discuss stories of their "sharing" experiences. Discuss how ginger and the kitten's life will be better because they have learned to share.
- Share other books on learning to share such as Zinnia and Dot.

Hoops

by Robert Burleigh, illustrations by Stephen T. Johnson



"Hoops. The game. Feel it!" In a seamless blend of poetry and pastel, author and Caldecott Award winning illustrator pay a joint tribute to the game of basketball. Basketball is an exercise in sensory awareness as we become immersed in the sights, tastes, sounds ("the no sound sound of the ball") and above all, the "feel" of the game.

Activity:

- Bring out those old issues of Sports Illustrated. Let students select a photograph that gives them a striking impression of a game. Have them create sensory "mini poems" to describe the action in the picture. Encourage them to use alliteration and figurative language in creating their poem.
- For older students, analyze the use of poetic elements in this piece. The author uses alliteration to wonderful effect ("the missed shot swirls and silently spins"). Kids will enjoy "discovering" these once they are given a few examples.
- Arrange for students to observe fifteen minutes of a P.E. class. Give them clipboards and paper so they can take sensory notes on what they observe. Use these notes as the basis for individual or class poems. Add action drawings of the activity to illustrate the poems.



If You Were Born a Kitten

by Marian Dane Bauer, illustrations by Joellen McAllister Stammen

Aspects of the birth process of a variety of animals are described in an inventive, often poetic text. This enchanting picture book illuminates the birth and infancy of 13 different animals. From remarkable whales to tiny opossums, children will marvel at this irresistible array of baby animals and will delight at the human baby featured on the last spread.



Activity:

- Study the life cycles of various animals (including humans). Share these in various ways such as posters, stories, reports, Kid Pix slide shows, etc.

Library Lil

by Suzanne Williams, illustrations by Stephen Kellogg



By the time Lil was 8, she has had read all of the books at her local library. She grows up to become Library Lil in a town called Chesterville, where she converts the television loving towns folk and a motorcycle gang into readers and library lovers.

Activity:

- Have students use the black line master to tell the towns folk in Chesterville what their favorite stories are. Display on a bulletin board in the library or hallway entitled "Best Books to Build Reading Muscles."
- Have students each create a picture for a Kid Pix slide show about their favorite library book telling why everyone should read it. Show slide shows at a parent open house

Love Letters

by Arnold Adoff, illustrations by Lisa Desimini

In this bold and fanciful book, secret admirers, klutzes, friends and enemies, moms and dads are the objects of sublime and witty love notes. Each page presents sumptuous valentines created from highly creative collages and paintings by acclaimed artist Lisa Desimini, making this an unforgettable visual feast.



Activity:

- Encourage students to write their own creative "love letters" after sharing the book. Use the accompanying form to help them do this. To avoid embarrassment about being "mushy" help them to realize that there are many people and many different things that we love. A love letter could be written to a brother or sister, a parent, a grandparent, uncle or aunt, best friend or neighbor, someone we look up to. A love letter could be written to a pet, an inanimate object, or even an idea or concept such as "freedom."
- Some of the most enjoyable things about these poems are the greeting lines: "Dear Tall Girl at the Front Table" and the signature lines: "Your Future Friend: Big Foot." Encourage students to be as creative as they can with these lines while still remaining true to their chosen topic
- After the letters are written then the remaining borders around the paper should be colored or decorated in a fashion appropriate to the theme of the letter.

Mailing May

by Michael O. Tunnell, illustrations by Ted Rand



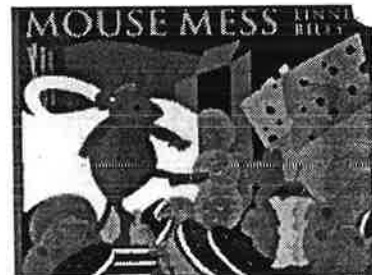
Based on a true account, this touching story is about five-year-old May who wants to visit her grandmother. Her parents must creatively determine how to get her there since they cannot afford a train ticket. They decide to take advantage of postal regulations and attach 52 cents worth of stamps to the back of her coat. May is mailed as a baby chick, the biggest on record, to Lewiston, Idaho. Her cousin Leonard operates the mail car and is able to deliver her safely to her grandmother.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the blackline master of the suitcase, young children can draw pictures of people or places they would choose to visit if they were mailed.
- ➡ Second and third graders can write stories of their adventures if they were mailed by train, truck, plane, or ship to visit favorite friends, relatives, or places.
- ➡ Students weigh self, obtain the current mailing rates and figure how much it would cost to mail themselves. Compare USPS, Federal Express, UPS, etc.

Mouse Mess

by Linnea Apslind Riley



Internationally acclaimed cut-paper artist Linnea Riley presents the delicious tale of a mouse, in search of a snack, who creates chaos in the kitchen. Young readers will relish the midnight snacks and marvel at the antics of a mouse who loves crumbly cookies and crunchy cornflakes!

Activity:

- ➡ Linnea Riley is an internationally acclaimed paper-cut artist. Her book *Mouse Mess* creates a fun opportunity for a class to combine art (paper cut collage), and language arts (reader's theater). There are 26 pages of text; one page for each student (give or take a few), or they could be divided into any configuration that works for you. All students could recite the title and the last line. Using large pieces of colored paper, have students make paper cut-outs that recreate the essential elements of the page from which they are reciting (e.g., an over sized Oreo cookie or a peanut butter sandwich with jam oozing o. Perform for other classes!

My Life with the Wave

by Catherine Cowan, illustrations by Mark Buehner



The boy brings home a wave from the beach and it takes up residence in his home. At first all is well. "The whole house shook with her laughter. Her smile was everywhere." As time goes on the wave displays another side of her personality, a morose side that plunges the household into despair. She is finally returned to the sea and the boy contemplates bringing home a cloud.

Activity:

- ➔ There are hints in this story about a "My life with the Cloud" sequel. Have students brainstorm things that would go well if they were to bring a cloud home as a friend, then things that might go very wrong. Divide students into two groups. Have one illustrate the positive aspects of the cloud friendship; the other group the negative. Have older students write a sentence or two to describe what they are doing with their cloud.
- ➔ Find books in your library on weather, hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanoes and other natural phenomenon. Have students look through them to find a phenomenon to personify. They can use accurate factual information they find in their book as a basis for telling their story of "My life with the...."

No Such Thing

by Jackie F. Koller, illustrations by Betsy Lewin



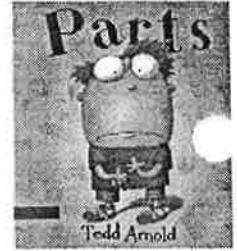
Howard's mother tells him there's no such thing as a monster under the bed. Monster's mother tells him there's no such thing as a boy on top of a bed. But no matter what their mothers say, Howard and Monster remain afraid of the dark. Then one spooky night they come face-to-face with each other.

Activity:

- ➔ Using the blackline master, cut on the broken lines and fold up. Give each student a 1/4 sheet of paper. Draw and color something that can hide under a bed. Tape or glue behind the open hole. Color the bed.

Parts

by Tedd Arnold



My parts are falling apart! The goggled-eyed narrator believes he is falling to pieces as he discovers some hair falling out, fuzz in his belly button, skin peeling between his toes, something coming out of his nose and a loose tooth.

Students will love this funny gross out tale and learn that it is all quite normal that our lost parts renew themselves.

Activity:

Parts Research

- ➔ Select nonfiction books about these body parts: teeth, belly buttons, noses, hair, skin and ears and any human body information CD-Rom discs.
- ➔ Divide students into body parts groups and have each group read the nonfiction books and cd-roms to locate facts about their parts.
- ➔ Have each part group design a part poster with facts and drawings.
- ➔ Sample of body books:

Belly Buttons are Navels by Mark Schoen, Skin, Teeth and Hair by Anna Sandeman

Ears are for Hearing by Paul Showers, Contemplating your Belly Button by Jun Nanao

Your Skin and Mine by Paul Showers, My Tooth is Loose by Martin Silverman

Straight Hair, Curly Hair by Augusta Goldin, The Nose Book by Al Perkins

I'm Gowing by Alike

Ring of Truth: an Original Irish tale

by Teresa Bateman, illustrations by Omar Rayyan



After the king of the leprechauns bestows on him the Ring of Truth, Patrick O'Kelley no longer expects to win a blarney contest. Folks say that Patrick O'Kelley must have kissed the Blarney Stone and come away with a bit of it caught in his teeth the way he's always telling wild stories or outrageous lies. So when a blarney contest is announced in the county of Donegal, everyone, including Patrick, is sure he will win the pot of gold. After all, Patrick boasts that he can "spout better blarney than the kind of the leprechauns himself." The king of the leprechauns, hearing of Patrick's boast, decides to teach the young upstart a lesson and tricks Patrick in to accepting an emerald ring. The ring is, of course, a magic ring, compelling its wearer to tell nothing but the truth. Poor Patrick is sure his life is ruined, until he discovers that sometimes truth is stranger than blarney.

Activity:

- ➔ Explain "exaggeration" and have students write an exaggeration statement about something. Mount them on shamrocks. (Or have shamrock shaped lined paper for the statements.)
- ➔ Design "riches" for the pot of gold. These could take many different forms, trinkets, jewels, or hopes and dreams, positive statements. Fill your own pot of gold with these "jewels."

Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp

by Carol D. Shields, illustrations by Scott Nash



What happens when the Jurassic gang wants to let off steam? They dance, of course! They rock and roll and twirl and tromp at the Dinosaur Stomp! With illustrations by Scott Nash that leap off the page like a raptor doing the fandango, Carol Diggory Shields tells dinosaur devotees all about reptilian revelry. A guaranteed favorite that will have young children gleefully chanting "Boomalacka,, boomalacka! Whack! Whack! WHACK!"

Activity:

- Using the blackline master, have the students color the dinosaurs in fun patterns and colors. Mount the decorated dinosaurs on butcher paper and brainstorm a title such as "Dnancing Dinos," "Dinosaur Fun," or use the book title.

Verdi

by Janell Cannon



Young Verdi doesn't want to grow up to be big and green. He likes bright yellow skin and sporty stripes. Besides, all the green snakes he meets are lazy, boring, and rude. Despite his efforts, Verdi turns as green as the leaves on the trees, but to his delight, he discovers that being green doesn't mean he has to stop being himself.

Activity:

- Brainstorm names of adults that the students really admire and why or what qualities about that person they admire. Use the snake blackline master to write the qualities that they admire. Mount the figure eight snakes on butcher paper and title it.
- Study various types of snakes and make a bulletin board of pictures of snakes studied.

Watch Out! Big Bro's Coming

by Jez Alborough



Large-size, warm illustrations mark a title which tells of forest creatures frightened by the arrival of a huge animal. As the rumor spreads rapidly through the jungle, animals become terrified at an ever-increasing description until reality arrives with a surprise.

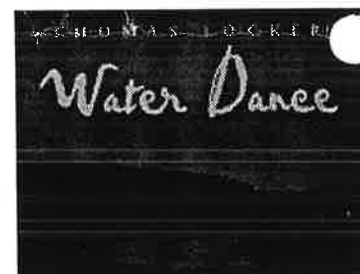
Activity:

- Discuss fears. What overcomes fear and changes that fear to acceptance or a pleasant experience? Share other books about fearful things such as: There is a Nightmare in My Closet and Harry and the Terrible Whatzit.

Water Dance

by Thomas Locker

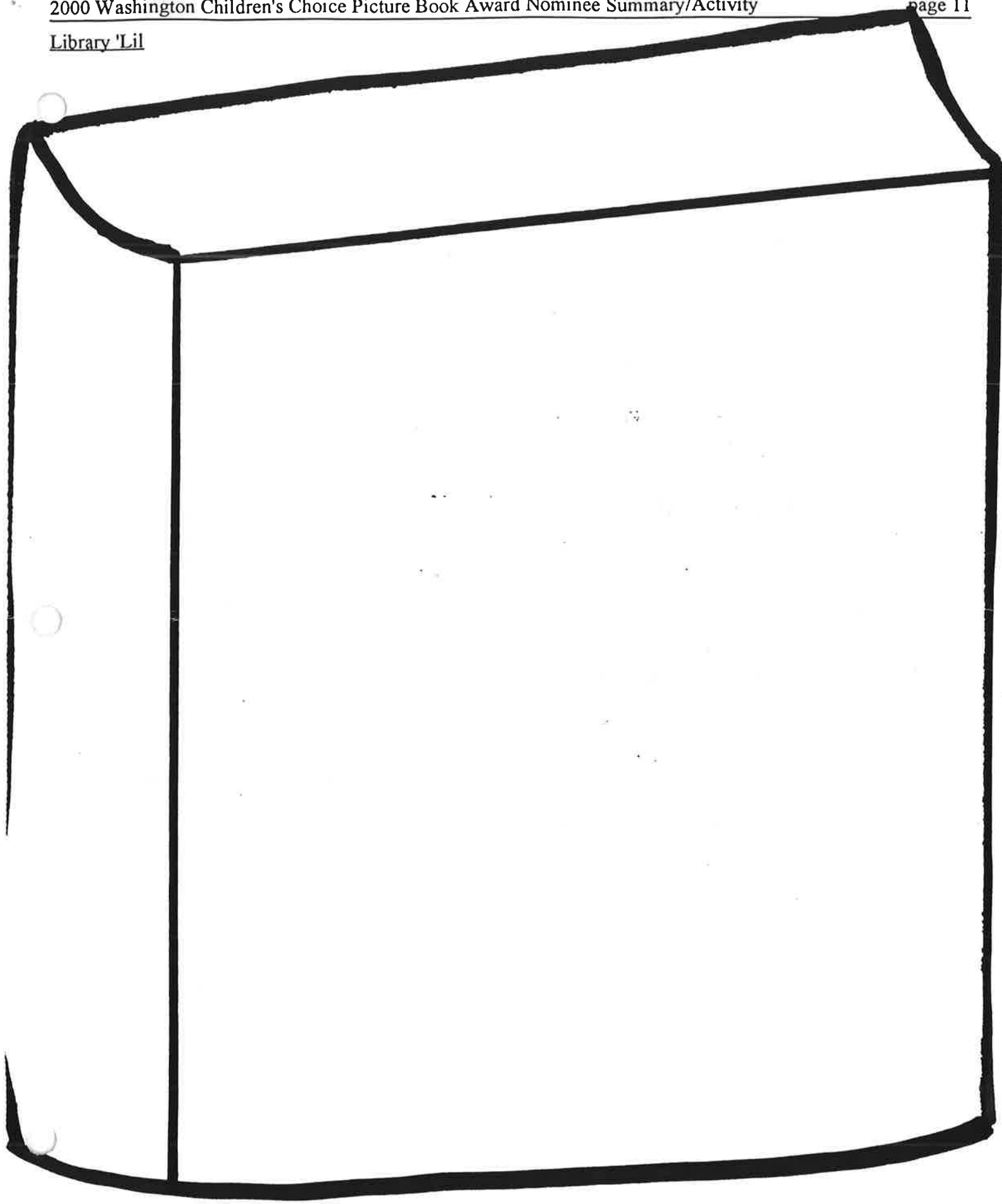
From a gentle mountain pond to a raging waterfall, from a silent ocean mist to a sparkling rainbow, Water Dance offers a poetic introduction to one of nature's most basic elements. Thomas Locker's dramatic paintings and text give water voice and substance in this tribute to water in all its glorious forms.



Activity:

- Create Haiku poems on elements of nature such as soil, sun, trees, flowers, etc. Have the children illustrate their poems.
- Brainstorm with your class other things in nature or life that are examples of cycles such as the metamorphosis of a caterpillar to a butterfly, or the "food chain." There are countless possibilities., Select one cycle to work with and divide your class up into groups. Assign each group one element of the cycle, such as egg, larva, pupa, chrysalis, adult, for the butterfly, to work with. Or you could assign each group a different cycle and each member within the group an element of the cycle. Have each group or student within a group research basic facts about their element and write a "first person narrative" describing their characteristic and what life is like during their particular stage. When groups have finished writing their narratives have them present to the class or other classes in some creative manner. They could: a.) Memorize and orally present their reports. b.) Create masks or costumes and present their report as a play. c.) Make puppets to present their report. d.) Put their narratives together as a Hyperstudio stack or Kid Pix slide show. e.) Present their reports in a "news magazine" format with the reporter asking questions about their cycle.

Library 'Lil



Love Letters

Dear _____

I love you more than _____

I also love you more than _____

I especially love you more than _____

When I think of you I _____

Yours, _____

Mailing May



No Such Thing



NO SUCH THING

BY JACKIE FRENCH KOLLER

Cut on the broken lines and fold up. Give each student a 1/4 sheet of paper. Draw and color something that can hide under a bed. Tape or glue behind the open hole. Color the bed.



Saturday Night at the Dinosaur Stomp



Verdi

