

Clare Healy's Reading Log

<p><i>Grandfather's Journey</i> (1993) by Allan Say. Boston: Houghton Miffling Co.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-6 yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: Travel, Grandfather</p> <p>Culture: Contrast between American and Japanese culture</p> <p>Setting: Japan, California</p> <p>Media bite: Grandson recounts his Grandfather's journey, which he later undertakes. Being torn by the love for two countries.</p> <p>Use to teach about Japanese and American culture and how one can be torn by the love for two countries. This book could also be used to introduce/talk about children's ancestors, where they are from, and how they came to America.</p>
<p><i>Chrysanthemum</i> (1991) by Kevin Henkes. New York: Scholastic Inc.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fantasy Age/grade appropriate: 4-6 yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: Mouse starts school</p> <p>Culture: Animals, middle class</p> <p>Setting: United States</p> <p>Media bite: Other mice make fun of her name (bullying). A teacher helps situation.</p> <p>Use to teach sensitivity and civility to others. Flower names.</p>
<p><i>Elijah of Buxton</i> (2007) by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic Press</p> <p>Type: Novel, historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: 9 -12 yrs./intermediate, young adult</p> <p>Topic: Free-born child</p> <p>Culture: African heritage, Canadian, U.S.</p> <p>Setting: Ontario, Canada; U.S, rural</p> <p>Media bite: Sometimes humorous, sometimes serious, story of an 11-year-old free born child of former slaves</p> <p>Use to teach about slavery, character evaluation</p>
<p><i>A Shelter in Our Car</i> (2004) by Monica Gunning. Illustrated by Elaine Pedlar. California: Children's Book Press.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-6 yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: Homelessness</p> <p>Culture: Jamaican Immigrants, lower class</p> <p>Setting: Urban U.S.</p> <p>Media bite: After her father died, eight-year-old Zettie and her mother left Jamaica in search of education and a better life in America. They now live in an old car, shower in the park, and Zettie goes to school while her mother searches for a job.</p> <p>Use to teach about homelessness. Explain what it is, how people get there, and emphasize that regardless of whether a people is homeless or not they deserve to be loved and treated with dignity and respect.</p>

<p><i>Rapunzel</i> (1975) by the Brothers Grimm, retold and illustrated by Bernadette Watts. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company</p> <p>Type: Picture Storybook, fairytale Age/grade appropriate: 4-6 yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: Witch, love</p> <p>Culture: Medieval Times</p> <p>Setting: Castle, forest</p> <p>Media bite: A beautiful girl is imprisoned in a lonely tower by a witch and later falls in love with a prince.</p> <p>Use to teach about the consequences of stealing and how good can always conquer evil.</p>
<p><i>Daddy's Roommate</i> (1994) by Michael Willhoite. Boston: Alyson Books.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Same sex couples/parenting, love</p> <p>Culture: American gay and straight couples</p> <p>Setting: U.S.A</p> <p>Media bite: A young boy discusses his divorced father's new living situation, in which the father and his gay roommate share eating, doing chores, playing, loving, and living.</p> <p>Use to discuss different kinds of family structures and that love comes in many different forms.</p>
<p><i>Frog and Toad Together</i> (1971) by Arnold Lobel. New York: Harper Trophy</p> <p>Type: Early chapter book, fantasy Age/grade appropriate: 6-9 yrs/ 1st-3rd grade</p> <p>Topic: Friendship, kindness</p> <p>Culture: Frogs and toads</p> <p>Setting: Forest</p> <p>Media bite: Frog and toad are best friends and do everything together. In these stories Frog and Toad do many activities like baking cookies, gardening, and making a list of things to do.</p> <p>Use to teach about friendship. These particular stories also emphasize will power, bravery, kindness, and in importance of hard work and how some things take time.</p>
<p><i>Tigress</i> (1991) by Helen Cowcher. New York: Scholastic Inc.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Tigers, problem solving</p> <p>Culture: Indian, herdsmen</p> <p>Setting: India, forest sanctuary</p> <p>Media bite: Tigress and her cubs hunt in the sanctuary filled with herdsmen and their herds. Tigress kills several of the animals but the herdsmen get rid of Tigress by scaring her away.</p> <p>Use to teach about tigers, wild life conservation, and solving problems with compassion.</p>

<p><i>Pepita on Pepper Street</i> (2008) by Ofelia Dumas Lachtman. Illustrated by Alex Pardo Delange. Houston: Pinta Books.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction, bilingual Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Moving, making new friends</p> <p>Culture: Hispanic American</p> <p>Setting: Pepper Street</p> <p>Media bite: Pepita, unhappy about her family's move to a street where everything is new to her, isn't friendly to the neighbors at first but is given a second chance.</p> <p>Use to teach that the best way to not feel new is to meet people and make friends.</p>
<p><i>The Lion and the Mouse</i> (2009) by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Little, Brown and Company.</p> <p>Type: Wordless book, fable Age/grade appropriate: 4-6yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Animals, hunters, kindness/good deeds</p> <p>Culture: Animals</p> <p>Setting: African Serengeti</p> <p>Media bite: Lion spares a mouse's life. Later, the mouse returns the favor by helping the lion escape a trap.</p> <p>Use to teach that no deed is too small and "the meek can trump the mighty."</p>
<p><i>Anansi the Spider: A Tale from Ashanti</i> (1972) adapted and illustrated by Gerald Mc Dermott. New York: Henry Holt and Company.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, folklore Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Spiders, unique talents, the moon</p> <p>Culture: West Africa, animals/insects</p> <p>Setting: West Africa</p> <p>Media bite: Anasi is a spider that gets into trouble, but his six sons who all have special talents save him. Anasi finds a glowing globe and plans to give it to one of his six sons, but Nyame, the God of all things, puts it in the sky: which is how the moon originated.</p> <p>Use to teach about cooperation, that everyone has their unique talents to contribute, and how to work together towards a common goal.</p>
<p><i>Masai and I</i> (1992) by Virginia Kroll. Illustrated by Naney Carpenter. New York: Four Winds Press.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Masai people, cultural comparison</p> <p>Culture: African American, Masai</p> <p>Setting: Village in Africa, U.S. City</p> <p>Media bite: Linda, a little girl who lives in the city, learns about East Africa and the Masai in school and imagines what her life would be like if she were a Masai.</p> <p>Use to teach about the Masai people and the similarities and differences between American culture and theirs.</p>

<p><i>The Hundred Dresses</i> (1944) by Eleanor Estes. Illustrated by Louis Slobodkin. New York: Voyage Books.</p> <p>Type: Children’s novel, Fiction Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yrs/secondary</p> <p>Topic: Polish people in the United States, friendship</p> <p>Culture: America in the 1940’s</p> <p>Setting: School, Boggins Heights</p> <p>Media bite: A young polish girl teaches her classmates (that tease her) a lesson by being honest, courageous, and true to herself.</p> <p>Use to discuss courage and emphasize that it is wrong to tease others.</p>
<p><i>My Father’s Dragon</i> (1948) by Ruth Stiles Gannett. Illustrated by Ruth Chrisman Gannett</p> <p>Type: Children’s novel, fantasy Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yrs/secondary</p> <p>Topic: Animals with human traits, cleverness</p> <p>Culture: N/A</p> <p>Setting: Wild Island</p> <p>Media bite: A young boy recounts his father's adventures on an island where he went to rescue a baby dragon. On this island the boy’s father tricks the animals that threaten him with items from his backpack.</p> <p>Use to illustrate the nonsensical logic of childhood and imagination.</p>
<p><i>The Legend of The Blue Bonnet</i> (1983) Retold and illustrated by Tomie DePaola. New York: Paper Star Books.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, legend Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Comanche Indians, bluebonnets</p> <p>Culture: North American Indians</p> <p>Setting: Texas</p> <p>Media bite: A retelling of the Comanche Indian legend of how a little girl’s sacrifice saves her people from a drought and brings the bluebonnet to Texas.</p> <p>Use to teach about what “true giving” means and how it can help your community.</p>
<p><i>Something Beautiful</i> (1998) by Sharon Dennis. Illustrated by Chris K. Soentpiet. New York: Dragonfly Books.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade Appropriate: 5-8yrs/primary</p> <p>Topic: Inner city life, love</p> <p>Culture: African American, low income families</p> <p>Setting: Urban U.S.A.</p> <p>Media bite: A young girl goes searching for her “something beautiful.” The young girl finds beauty in many different forms and realizes that her “something beautiful” is her mother.</p> <p>Use to teach that even if you don’t have much, as long as you have love in your life you have something beautiful.</p>

<p><i>My First Book of Proverbs/Mi Primer Libro de Dichos</i> (1995) by Ralfka Gonzolez. Illustrated by Ana Ruiz. U.S.A: Children's Book Press.</p> <p>Type: Picture storybook, folklore Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yrs./secondary</p> <p>Topic: Mexican American proverbs that celebrate life and culture</p> <p>Culture: Mexicans and Mexican Americans</p> <p>Setting: Mexico</p> <p>Media bite: Humorous contemporary illustrations of traditional Mexican American proverbs that appear both in Spanish and in English.</p> <p>Use to teach about Mexican American culture and sayings.</p>
<p><i>Young Jackie Robinson: Baseball Hero</i> (1992) by Edward Farrell. Illustrated by Dennis Stuart. U.S.A: Troll Associates.</p> <p>Type: Biography, picture storybook Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: First black major league baseball player, prejudice</p> <p>Culture: African American,</p> <p>Setting: Brooklyn, Kansas City</p> <p>Media bite: A biography about the first black man to play major league baseball and the prejudice he had to overcome with courage.</p> <p>Use to teach about Jackie Robison and his impact on American society. Also, can be used to teach about the prejudice of the time and the importance of equality.</p>
<p><i>I am a Man: Ode to Martin Luther King Jr.</i> (1971) by Ruth Stiks Gannett. Illustrated by Suzanne Verrier. New York: Doubleday & Co.</p> <p>Type: Poetry, picture storybook Age/grade appropriate: 6-8yrs./primary</p> <p>Topic: Martin Luther King Jr., The Civil Rights Movement, inequality, prejudice</p> <p>Culture: African American</p> <p>Setting: Montgomery, Washington D.C, U.S.A</p> <p>Media bite: Brief poem relates to Martin Luther King Jr.'s struggle for equal rights and subsequent assassination.</p> <p>Use to teach about Martin Luther King Jr., The Civil Rights Movement, and the struggle for equality.</p>
<p><i>The Dinosaur</i> (1991) created by Gallimard Jeunesse, Claude Delafosse, and James Prunier. Illustrated by James Prunier and Henri Galeron. New York: Scholastic Inc.</p> <p>Age/grade appropriate: 4-6yrs./primary</p> <p>Type: Information book, picture storybook</p> <p>Topic: Dinosaurs, paleontology</p> <p>Culture: Dinosaurs</p> <p>Setting: N/A</p> <p>Media bite: This book provides active illustrations that describe the extinct animals, their specific types, life cycle, and remains.</p> <p>Use to teach about the different kinds of dinosaurs, how they lived, and what animals they are distant relatives of.</p>
<p><i>The Lorax</i> (1971) by Dr. Seuss. New York: Random House.</p>

<p>Type: Picture storybook, fantasy Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary Topic: Deforestation, pollution, industrialization Culture: Animals Setting: Desolate corner of town Media bite: The Once-ler describes a pollution problem due to the factories that make thneeds. Use to teach about how pollution and deforestation is harmful to the environment and the animals that live in it.</p>
<p><i>The Rainbow Fish</i> (1999) by Marcus Pfister. New York: North-South Books Inc. Type: Picture story book, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/primary Topic: Personal beauty, friendship Culture: Fish Setting: The ocean Media bite: The most beautiful fish in the entire ocean discovers the real value of personal beauty and friendship by sharing. Use to teach that true beauty depends on kindness not physical appearances. Also highlights the importance of sharing.</p>
<p><i>Bridge to Terabithia</i> (1977) by Katherine Paterson. New York: Harper Collins Inc. Type: Contemporary realism, novel Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: Friendship, death Culture: Rural, lower class Setting: Rural Virginia Media bite: A ten year old matures and expands when he meets a newcomer who subsequently meets an untimely death trying to reach their hideaway and made up world, Terabithia, during a storm. Use to teach about courage, friendship, and the importance of being yourself and not being pressured to conform.</p>
<p><i>Holes</i> (1998) by Louis Sachar. New York: Frances Foster Books. Type: Fiction, novel Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: Juvenile delinquency, buried treasure, friendship Culture: Juvenile delinquents, lower class Setting: Camp Green Lake, Texas Media bite: As further evidence of his family's bad fortune which they attribute to a curse on a distant relative, Stanley Yelnats is sent to correctional facility he does not commit. There he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new-found sense of himself. Use to teach about friendship (true friends are those who stick with you without wanting something from you) and the destructive nature of cruelty (those who are cruel won't win in the long run).</p>

<p><i>Bud, Not Buddy (1999)</i> by Christopher Paul Curtis. New York: Delacorte Press. Type: Historical fiction, novel Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: Runaways, the Great Depression Culture: African American, foster child, low income family Setting: Flint, Michigan (1936) Media bite: Ten year old Bud, a motherless boy living in Flint Michigan during the Great Depression escapes a bad foster home and sets out on a search of the man he believes is his father- a renowned bandleader, H. E. Calloway of Grand Rapids. Use to teach about the Great Depression and how this novel serves as an example of what someone might have gone through during that time.</p>
<p><i>The Bee: Friend of the Flowers (1992)</i> by Paul Starosta. Massachusetts: Charlesbridge Publishing. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Bees Culture: Bees, humans Setting: N/A Media bite: This book explains how bees are born and how they live through close up photographs and text. Use to teach about how bees are born, how they live, etc.</p>
<p><i>Weather and Climate (2005)</i> by Barbara M. Linde. New York: Benchmark Education Company. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Weather, climate Culture: Humans Setting: Earth Media bite: This book explains what seasons, and types of weather and climate are through photographs and text. Use to teach about precipitation, seasons, and define what climate and weather is.</p>
<p><i>Storms (2005)</i> by Barbara Brannon. New York: Benchmark Education Company. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Storms Culture: Humans Setting: Earth Media bite: This book explains all the different types of storms through photographs and text. Use to teach about the different kinds of storms: thunderstorms, hurricanes, and tornadoes.</p>

<p><i>Water on Earth</i> (2005) by Barabara M Linde. New York: Benchmark Education Company. Type: Informational Book Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Water Culture: Humans Setting: Earth Media bite: This book explains all the different types of water on earth and its cycle through illustrations, photographs, and text. Use to teach about forms of water, water cycle, polluted water, and how we get the water we need.</p>
<p><i>Alia's Mission: Saving the Books of Iraq</i> (2004) by Mark Alan Stamaty New York: Alfred A Knopf. Type: Graphic novel Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yrs/ primary Topic: Libraries, librarians, Iraq, war Culture: Middle eastern Setting: Basra, Iraq 2003 Media bite: Alia, a librarian, with the help of her neighbors and friends save 30,000 precious novels before the library is destroyed. Use to talk about war and how one person can make a huge impact with a great idea and the help of others.</p>
<p><i>Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa</i> (2008) by Jeanette Winter. Singapore: Harcourt Children's Books Type: Biography Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yrs/ primary Topic: Conservation, Women in politics, Green Belt Movement Culture: Kenyan Setting: Kenya Media bite: A picture book based on the true story of Wangari Maathai, an environmental and political activist in Kenya and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Use to talk about conservation and how one person can make a huge impact with a great idea and the help of others.</p>
<p><i>Sitti's Secrets</i> (1994) by Naomi Shihab Nye. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks. Type: Picture Storybook Fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yrs/ primary Topic: Grandmothers, Palestinian culture Culture: American, Palestinian Setting: America, Village in Palestine Media bite: A young girl describes a visit to see her grandmother in a Palestinian Village on West Bank. Use to teach about relatives or loved ones across the world and introduce aspects of Palestinian culture.</p>

<p><i>Island of the Blue Dolphins</i> (1960) by Scott O'Dell. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company Type: Historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: Indians in North America, survival, islands Culture: Native American Setting: Island off the coast of California, 1800s Media bite: Left alone on a beautiful but isolated island off the coast of California, a young Indian girl spends eighteen years not only merely surviving through her tremendous courage and self-reliance, but also finding a measure of happiness in her solitary life. Use to teach about courage, forgiveness, and survival methods.</p>
<p><i>Letters From Rifka</i> (1993) by Karen Hesse. New York: Puffin Books Type: Historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yr/ secondary Topic: Immigration. Emigration, Jews, letters Culture: Jewish, Russian Setting: Russia, Belgium, America, 1919 Media bite: In letters to her cousin, a young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919 and her own experiences when she must be left in Belgium for a while when the other's emigrate to America Use to give a personal account on what it was like immigrating to America.</p>
<p><i>The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales</i> (1993) by Virginia Hamilton. Illustrated by Leo and Dian Dillon. Knopf Books for Young Readers Type: Fables, folktales, and myths Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yr/ secondary Topic: African Americans, pride, self-esteem, perseverance, and determination Culture: African American Setting: United States (Pre- Civil War era) Media Bite: A collection of stories told among slaves as they dreamt of freedom and remembered their lives in Africa. Use to introduce African American folktales and talk about freedom.</p>
<p><i>Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream</i> (2000) by Deloris and Roslyn M. Jordan. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. New York: Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing. Type: Historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yr/ secondary Topic: Michael Jordan, basketball Culture: African American Setting: New York Media bite: Young Michael Jordan, who is smaller than the other players, learns that hard work and determination are more important than size when playing the game of basketball. Use to teach about the importance of determination, perseverance, and hard work when working towards your dreams.</p>

<p><i>The Old Man and his Door</i> (1998) by Gary Soto. Illustrated by Joe Cepeda. New York: Puffin Books.</p> <p>Type: Folktale Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yr/ primary</p> <p>Topic: Doors, parties, Spanish words</p> <p>Culture: Mexican</p> <p>Setting: Garden, party</p> <p>Media bite: Misunderstanding his wife's instructions, the old man sets out for the party with a door on his back.</p> <p>Use to teach about the importance of listening.</p>
<p><i>Dr. Seuss's ABC: An Amazing Alphabet Book!</i> (1996) by Dr. Seuss. New York: Random House Inc.</p> <p>Type: Concept book Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yr/ primary</p> <p>Topic: The alphabet</p> <p>Culture: Animals (real, and make-believe)</p> <p>Setting: N/A</p> <p>Media bite: The letters of the alphabet are used whimsically throughout the story and rhyme.</p> <p>Use to introduce the alphabet in a fun way.</p>
<p><i>Lincoln: A Photobiography</i> (1987) by Russell Freedman New York: Clarion Books.</p> <p>Type: Biography Age/grade appropriate: 9-12yr/ secondary</p> <p>Topic: Abraham Lincoln, Civil War</p> <p>Culture: United States in the 1800's</p> <p>Setting: Various cities in the United States</p> <p>Media bite: Photographs and text trace the life of the Civil War President.</p> <p>Use to teach about Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War.</p>
<p><i>The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses</i> (1978) by Paul Goble. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks.</p> <p>Type: Legend Age/grade appropriate: 4-8yr/ primary</p> <p>Topic: Indians of North America, horses</p> <p>Culture: Native American</p> <p>Setting: North America</p> <p>Media bite: Though she is fond of her people, a girl prefers to live among the wild horses where she is truly happy and free.</p> <p>Use to introduce legends and culture of Indians in North America.</p>
<p><i>The Giver</i> (1993) by Lois Lowry. New York: Random House Inc.</p> <p>Type: Scientific fiction Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult</p> <p>Topic: Dystopia</p> <p>Culture: Humans in the future</p>

<p>Setting: City on Earth, the future Media bite: In the story of a seemingly utopian city in a futuristic world, Jonas is singled out to receive special training from The Giver: who alone holds memories of pain and pleasure in life. Use to talk about ethics, values, and the future of society.</p>
<p><i>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</i> (1976) by Mildred D. Taylor. New York: Puffin Books. Type: Historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: African American history, racism and prejudice Culture: African American Setting: Rural Mississippi Media bite: This novel explores life in Depression-era Mississippi as lived by the Logans, an African-American family. Use to talk about African American history.</p>
<p><i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> (2006) by John Boyne. New York: Random House Inc. Type: Historical fiction Age/grade appropriate: Young Adult Topic: Holocaust, concentration camps, friendship, Culture: Polish, Jewish, German Setting: Auschwitz in Poland, 1942 Media bite: Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called “Out-With” in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives on the other side of a wire fence. Use to teach about the holocaust and finding friendship in hard times.</p>
<p><i>Human Body</i> (2011) Text by Robert Coupe. Illustrated by Argosy Publishing. North Carolina: American Education Publishing. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: The human body Culture: Humans Setting: N/A Media bite: This Insider’s book introduces a fun way to learn about the human body through exciting pop-up’s, booklets, and lift up flaps Use to teach about the human body: bones muscles, the brain, the heart, circulation, digestion, and senses.</p>
<p><i>Space</i> (2007) by Alan Dyer. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: Space Culture: Humans Setting: Space Media bite: This Insider’s book brings space to in this book life with up-to-date information and 3-D illustrations.</p>

<p>Use to teach about the Solar System, stars, galaxies, and other objects in space.</p>
<p><i>Book of Greek Myths</i> (1962) by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire. New York: Delacorte Press. Type: Myths Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: Greek Gods and Goddesses Culture: Greek Setting: Greece Media bite: This book introduces all the major and lesser gods in Greek mythology and tells thrilling tales about their lives. Use to introduce and talk about Greek mythology.</p>
<p><i>Flotsam</i> (2006) by David Wiesner. New York: Clarion Books. Type: Wordless Book Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Cameras, pictures, the ocean Culture: Humans, sea creatures Setting: The beach, an ocean Media bite: A young boy finds a camera on the beach and discovers its secrets. Use to spark imagination and show how pictures can tell stories.</p>
<p><i>Volcanoes of the World</i> (1998) by Sonia Goldie. Illustrated by Pascal Estellon and Anne Weiss. France: Mila Editions. Type: Informational Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: Volcanoes Culture: Humans Setting: Earth Media bite: This book provides a fun and interactive way to learn about volcanos around the world by including an activity kit with posters, stickers, and a do-it-yourself flipbook. Use to teach about the inside of the earth, why volcanos are born, how and why they erupt, and what the benefits of volcanos are.</p>
<p><i>Egyptian Cinderella</i> (1989) by Shirley Climo. Illustrated by Ruth Heller. New York: Harper Collins Publishers. Type: Fairytale, folklore Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Egyptians Culture: Egyptian Setting: Egypt. 6th Century B.C. Media bite: In this version of Cinderella, Rhodopis, an Egyptian slave girl, is eventually chosen by the Pharaoh to be his queen. Use to show another culture's interpretation of the classic fairytale.</p>

<p><i>Paul Bunyan</i> (1984) Retold and illustrated by Steven Kellogg. New York: Harper Collins Publishers. Type: Tall tale, folklore Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Paul Bunyan Culture: United States Setting: United States Media bite: This book recounts the life of the extraordinary lumberjack whose unusual size and strength brought him many fantastic adventures. Use to introduce tall tales and talk about how you can use your strengths and talents to help others.</p>
<p><i>The Little Prince</i> (1943) by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Translated by Richard Howard. France: Harcourt Inc. Type: Fairy tale, classic Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: Planes, drawings, planets, the little prince Culture: French Setting: Sahara Desert Media bite: An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara desert encounters a little prince from a small planet, who relates to his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. Use to teach about open-mindedness, imagination, and how new experiences help us to learn new things.</p>
<p><i>The Polar Express</i> (1985) by Chris Van Allsburg New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Type: Picture storybook, fiction, classic Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/primary Topic: Christmas Culture: Children Setting: Train, North Pole Media bite: A magical train ride on Christmas Eve takes a boy to the North Pole to receive a special gift from Santa. Use to talk about Christmas.</p>
<p><i>Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins</i> (1989) by Eric Kimmel. Illustrated by Barbara Mayer and Trina Shart Hyman. New York: Holiday House Books Type: Picture storybook, myth Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Hanukkah Culture: Jewish Setting: Village, synagogue Media bite: Hershel outwits the goblins that haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah. Use to talk about Hanukkah.</p>
<p><i>Amazing Grace</i> (1991) by Mary Hoffman. Illustrated by Caroline Binch. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers. Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Identity, theater</p>

<p>Culture: African American Setting: School, United States Media bite: Although her classmates say she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black and a girl, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to. Use to teach about racism, and how important it is to persevere and follow you dreams.</p>
<p><i>The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig</i> (1993) by Eugene Trivizas. Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. New York: Aladdin Paperbacks. Type: Fracture Fairytale Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Animals, house building Culture: Animals Setting: House, forest Media bite: An altered retelling of the traditional tale about the conflict between pig and wolf- with a surprise ending. Use to introduce a happier ending to this classic tale and talk about conflict resolution.</p>
<p><i>William's Doll</i> (1972) by Charlotte Zolotow. Illustrated by William Pene Du Bois. Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Gender stereotypes, toys Culture: Americans Setting: United States Media bite: A boy is made fun of because he wants to play with a doll. Use to talk about gender stereotypes and how they are harmful.</p>
<p><i>Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide</i> (2010) by Icy Smith. Illustrated by Sopaul Nhem. California: East West Discovery Press. Type: Memoir Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: The genocide in Cambodia Culture: Cambodian, genocide victims and survivors Setting: Cambodia, mid-to-late 70's Media bite: Young Nat narrates this harrowing story of his family's experience during the Cambodian genocide of the mid-to-late '70s Use to introduce the horrors of war and genocide.</p>
<p><i>In My Family/ En Mi Familia</i> (1996) by Carmen Lomas Garza. San Francisco, Children's Book Press. Type: Memoir, picture storybook Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Hispanic American families, social life and customs. Culture: Hispanic Americans Setting: Texas</p>

<p>Media bite: In this book, the author describes, in bilingual text and illustrations, her experiences growing up in a Hispanic community in Texas. Use to teach about another culture; in this case the Hispanic culture in America.</p>
<p><i>Thank You Mr. Faulkner</i> (1998) by Patricia Polacco. New York: Penguin Putnam Books. Type: Fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Teachers, reading Culture: American, middle/lower class Setting: American school Media bite: At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning how to read makes her feel dumb, until, in fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem. Use to talk about how learning can sometime be difficult but how it's important to keep trying and persevere.</p>
<p><i>The Miracle Worker</i> (1984) by William Gibson. New York: Random House Publishing. Type: Play Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary Topic: Helen Keller, teachers, deafness and blindness Culture: American, upper class Setting: Alabama, 1880's Media bite: Helen Keller, a blind and deaf girl, is taught how to communicate by her teacher Anne Sullivan. Use to introduce Helen Keller as historical figure and talk about how to persevere and overcome struggles.</p>
<p><i>I See the Rhythm</i> (1998) by Toyomi Igus. Illustrated by Michele Wood. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Type: Informational, general nonfiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Music, literature Culture: African American Setting: Harlem, New Orleans Media bite: This book celebrates African American music and the far-reaching impact it has had on the world. Use to talk African American music, as well as many other different types of music.</p>
<p><i>Jingle Dancer</i> (2000) by Cynthia Leitich Smith. Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright. New York: Morrow Junior Books. Type: Picture storybook, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary Topic: Creek Indians of North America, dance Culture: Creek Indian Setting: Oklahoma Media bite: Jenna, a member of the Muscogee or Creek Nation borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the powwow. Use to talk about different types of dance and even have the students experiment with jingle dancing.</p>

<p><i>Me, Frida</i> (2010) by Amy Novesky. Illustrated by David Diaz. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers</p> <p>Type: Biography Age/grade appropriate: 4-8 yr/ primary</p> <p>Topic: Frida Kahlo, art</p> <p>Culture: Latin American</p> <p>Setting: San Francisco, 1930's</p> <p>Media bite: Artist Frida Kahlo finds her own voice and style when her famous husband, Diego Rivera, is commissioned to paint a mural in San Francisco, California, in the 1930s, and she finds herself exploring the city on her own.</p> <p>Use to talk about Frida Kahlo, art, and historical Latin American figures.</p>
<p><i>Charlotte's Web</i> (1952) by E.B. White. Illustrated by Garth Williams. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Inc.</p> <p>Type: Fantasy, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary</p> <p>Topic: Friendship, animals</p> <p>Culture: Humans, animals, insects</p> <p>Setting: Farm</p> <p>Media bite: The story of a pig named Wilbur and his friendship with a barn spider named Charlotte.</p> <p>Use to talk about friendship.</p>
<p><i>Stewart Little</i> (1945) by E.B. White. Illustrated by Garth Williams. New York: Harper Collins Publishers Inc.</p> <p>Type: Fantasy, fiction Age/grade appropriate: 9-12 yr/ secondary</p> <p>Topic: Mouse, friendship, family</p> <p>Culture: Humans, mouse</p> <p>Setting: New York</p> <p>Media bite: A story about the adventures a family has with a mouse as a son.</p> <p>Use to talk about friendship and family structures.</p>