

Activity Guide

Picture Book Award Nominees 2007-2008



**This guide prepared by members of the
Picture Book Award Committee:**

Lisa Conrath, Chair

Daniel Beach, Vice-Chair

D'Etta Broam

Susan Cassels

Gwendolyn Davis

Jenny Dilworth

Sally Ficklen

Lynne Holcombe

Alleene Holland

Sherwin L. Johnson

Janet Kittrell

Laura Linder

Cerese Long

Michelle Martin

Donna Kaye Myles

Teri Puryear

Suzanne Rhoten

Joanne Schwartz

Lisa Ulmer

Barbara Zinkovich

ABOUT ARACHNIDS: A GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

Cathryn Sill
Peachtree, 2003
36 pages

SUMMARY:

An introduction to the physical characteristics, behavior, and life cycle of arachnids.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle

Spiders Have Fangs by Claire Llewellyn

Do All Spiders Spin Webs? Questions and Answers about Spiders by Melvin Berger and Gilda Berg

The Eensy Weensy Spider by Mary Ann Hoberman

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- **Language Arts:** Have students make up short poems about spiders.
- **Science:** Find three different kinds of spiders in the school yard and have students observe how they move differently. Look up what type of spiders they are and learn about what they eat and what special adaptations they have.
- **Math:** Look up how many eggs a particular spider can lay at once and have students guess that number. Offer a prize to the closest guesser.
- **Art:** Have students draw spiders or other arachnids with adaptations for special tasks. They can think creatively; these don't have to be arachnids that exist in the wild. Students could also make 3D models of their special spiders with craft materials.

WEB SITES:

<http://www.allaboutnature.com/subjects/arachnids/Arachnidprintouts.shtml>

Arachnid printouts at Enchanted Learning

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems46.html>

Songs and poems about spiders

<http://www.proteacher.com/110065.shtml>

Spider lesson plans

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever met a spider that spins a new web every night, or one that creates a trapdoor to catch its food? *About Arachnids* will introduce young readers to these wondrous but often maligned creatures, including mites, ticks, scorpions and, yes, spiders. This simple picture book, beautifully illustrated in watercolors, teaches readers the characteristics of arachnids, discusses their wide variety of habitats, and presents some of the group's most interesting members. A section in the back of the book offers additional information on each featured arachnid, giving readers more detailed information about Black Widow Spiders, Crablike Spiny Orb Weavers, Daring Jumping Spiders, and others. For budding life scientists, this picture book is a must-read. *About Arachnids* will send them scurrying to the backyard with magnifying glass in hand.

Prepared by: Michelle H. Martin

ACTUAL SIZE

Steve Jenkins
Houghton Mifflin, 2004
32 pages

SUMMARY:

Discusses and gives examples of the size and weight of various animals and parts of animals

If YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY....

Prehistoric Actual Size by Steve Jenkins

Biggest, Strongest, Fastest by Steve Jenkins

Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest by Steve Jenkins

What Do You Do When Something Wants to Eat You? by Steve Jenkins

Big and Little by Steve Jenkins

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This? by Robin Page

I See a Kookaburra: Discovering Animal Habitats Around the World by Robin Page

Slap, Squeak and Scatter: How Animals Communicate by Steve Jenkins

WEB SITES:

<http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com>

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/explore/animals.html>

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/creature_feature/archive/

<http://www.kidsgowild.com/animalfacts>

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Science: comparison, measurement, observation, and record keeping

BOOKTALK:

Do you like spiders? I sure don't. I am scared to DEATH of spiders of any kind or size! Well, would you believe there is one in Africa that is 12 inches wide? It's so big it eats birds! I think my heart would stop if I saw one that big! 12 inches is HUGE—and, speaking of 12 inches, can you imagine an eyeball of any creature being that big? Well, the squid's eyes are that big—scary and unbelievable, isn't it? Hey and while we are on the subject of amazing things, did you know that there is an African frog that weighs 7 pounds? That's bigger than my cat! There are a lot of wild facts out there about creatures, but sometimes just hearing these facts and figures isn't enough. Sometimes these facts and figures go in and out one ear. Sometimes the only way you can really grasp what something is like is to see it for yourself. And you can...just open up the nonfiction book, Actual Size, by Caldecott Honor author Steve Jenkins and you can see for yourself these amazing life size depictions of real animals!

Prepared by: Sally Ficklen

APPLES TO OREGON: BEING THE (SLIGHTLY) TRUE NARRATIVE OF HOW A BRAVE PIONEER FATHER BROUGHT APPLES, PEACHES, PEARS, PLUMS, GRAPES, AND CHERRIES (AND CHILDREN) ACROSS THE PLAINS

Written by: Deborah Hopkinson

Illustrated by: Nancy Carpenter

Atheneum Books For Young Readers, 2004

32 pages

SUMMARY:

A pioneer father transports his beloved fruit trees and his family to Oregon in the mid-nineteenth century. This book is based loosely on the life of Henderson Luelling.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

A Packet of Seeds by Deborah Hopkinson

Covered Wagons, Bumpy Trails by Verla Kay

Gold Fever by Verla Kay

Sunsets of the West by Tony Johnston

Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett: A Tall Tale by Steven Kellogg

Pecos Bill by Steven Kellogg

Paul Bunyan by Steven Kellogg

Mike Fink by Steven Kellogg

John Henry by Julius Lester

Johnny Appleseed by Steven Kellogg

Under the Quilt of Night by Deborah Hopkinson

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt by Deborah Hopkinson

Fannie in the Kitchen: the Whole Story from Soup to Nuts of How Fannie Farmer

Invented Recipes with Precise Measurements by Deborah Hopkinson

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Social Studies: American History, Frontier and Pioneer Life, Tall Tales

WEB SITES:

<http://www.isu.edu/~trinmich/fruit.html> Biographical information on Henderson Luelling and the Oregon Trail

<http://www.deborahhopkinson.com/content/blogcategory/3/2/> Lesson plans to compliment the book

<http://whatscookingamerica.net/Fruit/Apples.htm> History of apples, types of apples, and recipes

BOOK TALK:

Here is a hilarious tall tale told by Delicious, the nonedible apple of her daddy's eye. She tells a tale of her Papa, Henderson Luelling, packing up the family (his wife and all eight children) and all his precious apple trees and other fruit trees and setting off from Iowa to Oregon in 1847. The trail is cruel and long. It takes a lot of quick thinking and wits from the family to get those precious trees safely to Oregon.

Prepared by: Donna Myles

BAD KITTY

Nick Bruel

Roaring Brook Press, 2005

36 pages

SUMMARY: When a kitty discovers there is no cat food in the house, she decides to become very, very bad.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Absolutely Awful Alphabet by Mordicai Gerstein

Alphabet under Construction by Denise Fleming

Animal Babies ABC by Barbara Knox

Cats ABC: an Alphabet Book by Amanda Doering

Dogs ABC: an Alphabet Book by B. A. Hoena

K is for Kitten by Nikia Leopold

Ocean Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta

Old Black Fly by Jim Aylesworth

Naughty Little Monkeys by Jim Aylesworth

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- **Language Arts:** Let the class make an alphabet book of items that the “Bad Kitty” could do in the school (good and bad).
- **Science:** Students can make a list (or book) of foods that the “Bad Kitty” would eat from the school cafeteria menu, and then see what nutritional meals the “Bad Kitty” could have.
- **Math:** Students could count various things that the “Bad Kitty” did. (How many family members did “Bad Kitty” hurt/help? How many foods did “Bad Kitty” try?, etc.)

WEB SITES:

www.nickbruel.com

www.mathcats.com

BOOKTALK: “She wasn’t always a bad kitty.” A family learns that their kitty is not so nice when she doesn’t get the cat food that she wants and they offer her healthy foods instead. She lets them know in no uncertain terms that she is not happy -- from biting grandma on the ankle and being nasty to daddy’s neckties to flooding the bathroom and overturning her litter box. This kitty will have you in stitches of laughter and in the emergency room!

Prepared by: Lynne Holcombe

THE BUMBLEBEE QUEEN

April Pulley Sayre
Charlesbridge Press, 2005
30 pages

SUMMARY:

Follows one queen as she finds a nest, gathers nectar, lays eggs, and tends her colony through spring, summer, and fall.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...other books about life cycles by the author

Dig, Wait Listen by April Pulley Sayre

Turtle, Turtle, Watch Out by April Pulley Sayre

Are You a Bee? by Judy Allen

The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco (fiction)

Bees by Malcolm Penny

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Language Arts: non-fiction writing
- Science: life cycle, habitat

WEB SITES:

www.aprilsayre.com

The author's website is full of teacher resources, links, and additional non-fiction books.

www.bumblebee.org

This website contains scientific information about bumblebees.

AWARDS:

2006 Teacher's Choice Award/ *Learning Magazine*

BOOKTALK:

Bumblebees a-buzz around flowers are a sure sign that summer has arrived. Their small size and perfectly striped yellow and black colored coats keep us in awe instead of afraid of their sting. But have you ever wondered: Where do they live? What do they do? Bumblebee Queens begin their year digging out of the ground where they spent the winter in hibernation. Read April Pulley Sayre's latest non-fiction book and find out what the Queen does in the spring, summer and fall. You will be amazed!

Prepared by: Barbara Stewart Zinkovich

CAROLINA'S STORY: SEA TURTLES GET SICK, TOO!

Donna Rathmell

Photography by Barbara J. Bergwerf

Sylvan Dell Publishers, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY:

The photo journal of "Carolina," a critically ill loggerhead sea turtle, as she is cared for and nursed back to health at the Sea Turtle Hospital. Just like hospitalized children, Carolina goes through a variety of emotions and procedures during her care, recovery process, and her eventual release back to her home-- the ocean.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean by Gail Karwoski

Octavia and Her Purple Ink Cloud by Donna Rathmell

If a Dolphin Were a Fish by Loran Wlodarski

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Social Studies: Animal Rescue; state symbols
- Science: Sea Turtles, South Carolina Aquarium

WEB SITES:

www.scaquarium.org

research.myfwc.com

www.bergwerfgraphics.com

www.SylvanDellPublishing.com

en.wikipedia.org

www.oceanconservancy.org

www.dnr.sc.gov

www.seaturtles.org

BOOKTALK:

Have you been looking for a nonfiction book to connect South Carolina's coast, good turtle information, and great photographs? If so, this may be the book for you. Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too! is a photographic journal of Carolina's visit to the Turtle Hospital at the South Carolina Aquarium in Charleston. Carolina's experience is followed from the point where she washes up on the beach barely alive, through her treatment, and ultimately leads to her release back into the wild.

Prepared by: Lisa Ulmer

COMING ON HOME SOON

Jacqueline Woodson
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2004
32 pages

SUMMARY: After Mama takes a job in Chicago during World War II, Ada Ruth stays with Grandma but misses her mother who loves her more than rain and snow.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Home to Me, Home to You by Jennifer A. Ericsson
Red, White, and Blue Good-bye by Sara Wones Tomp
Visiting Day by Jacqueline Woodson

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Social Studies: World War II, African American history, the 20th century
- Language Arts: Narrative writing, historical fiction

WEB SITES:

<http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com>

BOOKTALK:

“Ada Ruth. I’ll be coming home soon.” Times are hard during World War II. Men have gone off to fight in the war leaving the women behind to provide for their families. Ada Ruth must stay with her Grandma while her mama goes to work on the railroad in Chicago. Grandma and Ada Ruth do their best to get by living off the little they have left and what the land can provide. The winter is hard and cold, and the war just goes on and on. Ada Ruth tries to wait patiently for the day Mama comes home, but even Grandma finds it hard at times. Finally, letters and money from Mama start to arrive, and the day draws near when the family will be reunited.

Prepared by: Ceres Long

THE DOG WHO CRIED WOLF

Keiko Kasza

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Tired of being a house pet, Moka the dog moves to the mountains to become a wolf but soon misses the comforts of home.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Dirt Boy by Erik Jon Slingerup

Dog's Noisy Day by Emma Dodd

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Science: Compare and contrast monkeys and wolves

WEB SITES:

<http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmr/mtai/kasza.html>

<http://us.penguinroup.com/nf/Author/AuthorPage/0,,1000020052,00.html>

BOOKTALK

Meet Moka, a dog who loves books. Moka and his mistress, Michelle, spend their days reading books. One day Michelle reads a book about wolves. Moka decides she wants to be a wolf and runs away. On her adventures she chases a rabbit, gets sprayed by a skunk, pinched by a beetle and has a mouse make fun of her. On her last ditch effort to be a wolf, she howls like a wolf. Hooooooooooooo! Suddenly she hears the howling back. Real wolves! Find out what happens to Moka as she encounters real wolves and learns the life lesson that it is better to be who you are.

Prepared by: Lisa Conrath

ELEPHANTS CAN PAINT, TOO!

Katya Arnold
Atheneum Books, 2005
34 pages

SUMMARY:

Discusses Asiatic elephants who have been taught to paint with their trunks

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Ruby: the Painting Pachyderm of the Phoenix Zoo by Dick George

Asian Elephant by Louise and Richard Spilsbury

An Elephant in the Backyard by Richard Sobol

Brave Dogs, Gentle Dogs: How They Guard Sheep by Cat Urbigit

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Language Arts: Letter "E", compare and contrast
- Social Studies: Animals that work
- Science: Endangered animals

WEBSITES:

http://baliadventuretours.com/BAT-Elephant_Art.htm

BOOKTALK:

Elephants live in Asia. They eat three hundred pounds of food a day. They spray water out of their trunks. Even so, they are a lot like you. They like to eat cookies and hang out with their friends. They even like to paint pictures. In this true story you'll learn about an amazing class of elephants that are taught to become artists by an amazing teacher.

Prepared by: Suzanne Rhoten

HACHIKO: THE TRUE STORY OF A LOYAL DOG

Pamela S. Turner

Yan Nascimbene, illustrator

Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Relates the true story of a dog who accompanied his master to and from a Tokyo train station for a year and, after his master died, continued to wait for him there every day for many years

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Hachiko Waits by Leslea Newman

The Loyal Cat by Lensey Namioka

Kamishibai Man by Allen Say

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- History: Twentieth century
- Geography: Japan
- Culture: Japanese customs
- Art: Japanese style, woodcuts, monuments
- Science: Akita dogs

WEBSITES:

<http://www.fabuloustravel.com/globe/hachiko/hachiko.html>

Article about Hachiko

<http://www.akc.org/breeds/akita/index.cfm>

Akita profile from the American Kennel Club

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever waited for someone to come home each day? Imagine walking to the same place every day to meet your best friend. Imagine watching hundreds of people pass by every morning and every afternoon. Imagine waiting and waiting and waiting for ten years. This is what Hachiko did. Hachiko was a real dog that lived in Tokyo, a dog that faithfully waited for his owner at the Shibuya train station long after his owner could not come to meet him. He became famous for his loyalty and was adored by scores of people who passed through the station every day. Step into the mind of Kentaro, a young Japanese boy, as this story of a loyal dog that never stopped waiting for his owner unfolds in 1925. Hachiko, an Akita dog owned by an elderly professor, accompanied his master to the train station each day to see him off to work. Every day, Hachiko patiently waited at the station all day for his master to come home, then walked with him back to their home. When Hachiko's owner died unexpectedly at work one day, Hachiko loyally maintained his watch at the station ... for almost ten years. Hachiko became famous for his loyalty, enchanting the Japanese people, who came to the station in scores just to see the dog waiting in the same spot each day. When Hachiko eventually died in 1932 while waiting at the station, the people of Tokyo erected a bronze statue in his honor at Shibuya

station in Tokyo. Every April 8th, a festival is held there in Hachiko's honor, and people come from near and far to place flowers, wreaths, and other remembrances on his statue. Hachiko's statue remains a favorite meeting place for people in Tokyo today.

Prepared by: Jenny Dilworth

IF YOU DECIDE TO GO TO THE MOON

Faith McNulty
Scholastic Press, 2005
30 pages

SUMMARY:

An imaginary journey to the moon reveals what a real voyage would be like and what astronauts would find once they arrive.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

I Want to be an Astronaut by Byron Barton

So, That's how the Moon Changes Shape! by Allan Fowler

Roaring Rockets (Amazing Machines Series) by Tony Mitton, Ant Parker

What's out There? A Book about Space by Lynn Wilson, Paige Billin-Frye

Me and My Place in Space by Joan Sweeney, Annette Cable

Space Songs for Children by Tonja Evetts Weimer

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- English Language Arts: Making Lists, taking notes, reading nonfiction
- Science: Space/Planets, layers of the atmosphere, gravity, weightlessness
- Math: Counting backwards from 10, measurement (time and distance)
- History: Space travel

WEB SITES:

<http://www.spacewander.com/USA/english.html>

http://starchild.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/StarChild/space_level1/travel.html

<http://www.nineplanets.org/luna.html>

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/ScienceChartingMoonPhases7.htm>

<http://btc.montana.edu/ceres/html/Quem.html>

<http://www.spa3.k12.sc.us/WebQuests/space/index.htm>

BOOKTALK:

What would you need to take if you were going to the moon? What would it feel like? What would you do when you got there? Who was there before me, and what did they do? Why does the moon look lit up if it has no light? What's it like to be weightless? Is there a map of the moon? These questions and so many more will be answered for you if you read the book, If You Decide to Go to the Moon.

Prepared by:

Laura Linder

LEAF MAN
Lois Ehlert
Harcourt, Inc., 2005
35 pages

SUMMARY: A man made of leaves blows away, traveling wherever the wind may take him.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Leaves! Leaves! Leaves by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Leaves by Vijaya Bodach

Leaves by Kristin Ward

Autumn by Terri Degezelle

Leaves by Patricia Whitehouse

Autumn Leaves by Ken Robbins

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Science: The seasons (in particular fall), changing seasons, nature, types of leaves, origins of leaves
- Art: Leaf rubbings and shapes of leaves

WEB SITES:

<http://www.rif.org/art/illustrators/ehlert.msp>

Lois Ehlert biography

<http://www.sciencemadesimple.com/leaves.html>

Why leaves change color

BOOKTALK:

Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert is the story of a man made from a variety of types of leaves. He flies over animals and objects that are also made from different leaves. The pages of the book are die-cut into the shapes of leaves and overlap one another to suggest hills in the distance. The reds, yellows, oranges, browns, and greens make a very colorful and extremely eye-catching combination. Leaves are named on the front and back end papers and unknown leaves are identified as to place of origin on the dust jacket. This book would be a great introduction to leaf study or the seasons.

Prepared by: Susan Cassels

LEONARDO THE TERRIBLE MONSTER

Mo Willems

Hyperion Books for Children, 2005

42 pages

SUMMARY:

Leonardo is a little monster who isn't capable of scaring anyone.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Monster Trap by Dean Morrissey

Laura Numeroff's 10-Step Guide to Living with Your Monster by Laura Numeroff

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Language Arts: Create your own monster with clay or other objects and write your own monster story.

WEB SITES:

<http://www.mowillems.com/>

BOOKTALK:

Mo Willems has created a clever story that will capture the hearts of children all over. Leonardo is a terrible monster. He isn't scary. He isn't big or weird, and he doesn't have a lot of teeth. So, Leonardo decides to research for a scaredy-cat kid he can scare the tuna salad out of. Can you guess what happens? Read this endearing book of friendship and acceptance to find out.

Prepared by: Lisa Conrath

LLAMA LLAMA RED PAJAMA

Anna Dewdney

Viking, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY:

At bedtime, a little llama worries after his mother puts him to bed and goes downstairs.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

10 Minutes Till Bedtime by Peggy Rathman

How Do Dinosaurs say Goodnight? by Jane Yolen

Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for Bed? by Barney Saltzberg

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Language Arts:

Read several books about getting ready for bed. Let the class talk about things they do before bedtime and write a big book about the routine of going to bed.

Art:

Let your students draw pictures to illustrate the big book about getting ready for bed.

Math:

Send home questionnaires to parents asking what time students go to bed and what time they wake up on school days. Let the students add up how much sleep they get each night. Make a chart to see which children receive the most and least amounts of sleep.

Computer:

Let the students play the games and do the activities listed on the web site below that is based on Peggy Rathman's 10 Minutes Till Bedtime.

WEB SITES:

<http://www.hamstertours.com/hamsterkeepaway.html>

BOOKTALK:

In *Llama Llama Red Pajama*, author and illustrator Anna Dewdney captures a child's bedtime ritual. The funny events are true to life from the time the lights are turned off until little Llama finally falls asleep. The simple rhyme scheme and the adorable facial expressions of baby Llama make this a first-rate bedtime story. Llama will not replace the classic *Goodnight Moon*, but I guarantee children will love this delightful book.

Prepared by: Alleene Holland

MY BIG BROTHER

Miriam Cohen

Star Bright Books, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY:

When his brother leaves to become a soldier, a boy does what he can to take his place in the family.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

Big Ben by Sarah Ellis

Waiting for the Evening Star by Rosemary Wells

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Language Arts:

Locate the address of a local soldier in Iraq. Have students write letters and draw pictures to send to the soldier.

Math:

Discuss ways to raise funds to purchase phone cards for soldiers. Estimate how much money you will need to buy (for example) 250 cards @ \$10 per card.

Use the website below to find where you can send phone cards to soldiers in Iraq

Social Studies:

Send notes home with the students to find a parent or grandparent who has served in the military to talk to your class about the importance of supporting the troops. If your students are third graders, this can be incorporated into their study of SC history.

Art:

Ask students to draw pictures of their family and explain to the class how they help younger siblings.

WEB SITES:

<http://www.soldiersangels.org>

BOOKTALK:

Miriam Cohen has been one of my favorite authors since I became a “librarian” in 1974. I still love her classic little books, *Will I Have a Friend?* 1967 and *When Will I Read?* 1977. When her book *My Big Brother* was reviewed, *Booklist* gave it a starred review and Kirkus reviewers called it a “real gem.” The book is about an African American family, but the emotions and expressions are universal: loving one another, learning to show that love, growing into new roles, and longing for absent family members. I found the book very heartwarming because of the timely subject matter; however, the spare text and soft watercolor illustrations will make it a favorite of children and adults.

In the book, the family bakes cookies to send to the big brother in the army. I have included a web site in my review where you and your students can contribute money to buy phone cards for soldiers in Iraq so they can phone home.

Prepared by: Alleene Holland

MY TEACHER FOR PRESIDENT

Kay Winters

Denise Brunkus, Illustrator

Dutton Children's Books, 2004

30 pages

SUMMARY:

A second-grader writes a television station with reasons why his teacher would make a good president, but only if she can continue teaching until the end of the year.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

Duck for President by Doreen Cronin

Max for President by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

If I Were President by Catherine Stier

Woodrow, the White House Mouse by Peter W. Barnes

Vote! by Eileen Christelow

What Presidents Are Made Of by Hanoch Piven

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Topics: Careers, Government, School Stories

WEB SITES:

Kids.gov Careers http://www.kids.gov/k_careers.htm

Bureau of Labor and Statistics <http://www.bls.gov/k12/>

South Carolina government pages <http://www.sciway.net/gov/>

Kay Winters' Home Page <http://www.kaywinters.com/>

Kay Winters http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/12909/Kay_Winters/index.aspx

White House for Kids <http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/>

BOOKTALK:

Can you imagine your teacher doing any other job? A truck driver? A nurse? A Wal-Mart greeter? How about President of the United States? She probably has many of the qualities we look for in a president. Is she a good listener? Does she go to lots of meetings? Does she sign important papers? Does she believe in peace? Read this book to find out why your teacher might just make a good president!

Prepared by: Teri Puryear

NOT NORMAN

Kelly Bennett

Candlewick Press, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY:

As a boy attempts to convince someone else to take his disappointing pet, he learns to love Norman, the goldfish, himself.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY THESE:

Arthur's Pet Business by Marc Brown

Arthur's New Puppy by Marc Brown

The Aminimal by Lorna Balian

The Berenstain Bears' New Puppy by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Wackiest White House Pets by Kathryn Gibbs Davis

I Took My Frog to the Library by Eric Kimmel

Hoodwinked by Arthur Howard

Don't Take Your Snake for a Stroll by Karin Ireland

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Language Arts:

- Create poems, stories, or skits about pets. Younger children could draw pictures or dictate stories.
- Write about a gift you got that you didn't really want.
- Write about the class pet.

Social Studies:

- Research a country from which an "exotic" pet might come

Science:

- Research a particular animal. Determine whether that animal would make a pet. See suggestions above.
- Group animals by their types: mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, reptiles, or insects. You could even relate these to their corresponding numbers in the Dewey Decimal System.
- Group mammals by types: rodents, canines, felines, or others. Then research characteristics for each particular group.

Math:

- Make a graph of class pets. Allow students with the same pets or in the same group of pets to work together on projects, such as the next one.
- Take a field trip to a pet store, and choose a pet for yourself or for the classroom. Calculate the costs to purchase necessary items for the pet.
- Create a schedule for the care and feeding of your pet or the class pet.

WEB SITES:

www.aspca.org

www.dog.com

www.petsmart.com or www.petco.com

BOOKTALK: Have you ever had a pet? Did you get tired of taking care of it? Did you like to play with your pet? Did you ever dress up your pet? Well, the boy in our story wanted a pet; but, when he got a pet for his birthday, he decided that he didn't want this pet. This pet was not exciting. Not Norman! There were other pets that could run and play catch. There were other pets that could curl up on his bed and sleep. There were other pets he could play with. Not Norman. Norman was a goldfish, and we all know how playful goldfish are. Not! So, our narrator decides that he is going to get rid of Norman because Norman is not the ideal pet. No one will trade for Norman. No one listens as Norman's owner extols the virtues of Norman during show-and-tell. The pet store closes before he can take him back. But that night, something happens in the dark of his bedroom. Read *Not Norman* by Kelly Bennett to discover the fate of the unwanted Norman.

Prepared by: Daniel R. Beach

PAPA, DO YOU LOVE ME?

Barbara M. Joosse

Chronicle Books LLC, 2005

36 pages

SUMMARY:

When a Maasai father in Africa answers his son's questions, the boy learns that his father's love for him is unconditional.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joosse

Kidogo by Anik McGrory

Guess How Much I Love You by Sam McBratney

Grandma, Tell Me a Story by Lynn Floyd Wright

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Social Studies: World Geography--Africa, Maasai culture, Serengeti
- Language Arts: dialogue, repetition, compare/contrast
- Guidance: families, cultural ties

WEB SITES:

<http://www.barbarajoosse.com>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in the wilds of Africa? And, how do African parents protect their children? In this story, a young Maasai boy tests his father's love by asking those questions that we all have thought about as children...how much do you love me; how long will you love me; will you keep me warm and safe; and, will you love me even when I do something wrong? Using a beautiful setting and an introduction to another culture, Barbara Joosse lets young imaginations experience the yearnings of children everywhere.

Prepared by: Cerese Long

PRECIOUS AND THE BOO HAG

Patricia C. McKissack and Onawumi Jean Moss

Kyrsten Brooker, Illustrator

Atheneum/Anne Schwartz Books, 2005

40 pages

SUMMARY:

Home alone with a stomachache while the family works in the fields, a young girl faces the horrifying Boo Hag that her brother warned her about.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp by Mercer Mayer

Lu and the Swamp Ghost by James Carville and Patricia McKissack

Heckedy Peg by Audrey Wood

Abiyoyo by Pete Seeger

The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales by Virginia Hamilton

Sure As Sunrise: Stories of Bruh Rabbit & His Walkin' Talkin' Friends by Alice McGill

Tops & Bottoms by Janet Stevens

Lon Po Po by Ed Young

Precious and the Boo Hag Audio Cassette (Recorded Books, 2005)

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Folklore

African American History

WEB SITES:

Patricia C. McKissack <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/contributor.jsp?id=3372>

More About Patricia McKissack http://www.childrenslit.com/f_mckissack.html

Onawumi Jean Moss http://www.yourfavoritestorytellers.org/jean_moss.html

African-American Storytelling: "The Jackal and the Dog"

<http://www.history.org/history/teaching/enewsletter/volume2/february04/dogandjackal.cfm>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever been home alone? Did you feel proud of yourself for being home alone, or were you afraid every time you heard a floorboard creak or the wind rustle against the windows? In this story, Precious is left home alone with a stomachache while her family goes to work. Before she leaves, Mama warns Precious-- "Don't let nothing or nobody into this house, not even me cause I got a key." Then, her big brother pulls her aside and warns her about the Boo Hag! Precious never heard of no Boo Hag before! Brother tells her how strange, tricky, and scary the Boo Hag is and how she'll try anything to get into the house. He tells her, "She can disguise herself to look like anything, and worse than that, she tries to make you disobey yo' mama!" Sure enough, before Precious can even enjoy the peace and quiet, the Boo Hag comes calling! Will she be clever enough to outwit even the trickiest trickster? Read Precious and Boo Hag by Patricia McKissack and Onawumi Jean Moss to find out.

Prepared by Teri Puryear

REACHING FOR THE MOON

Buzz Aldrin

HarperCollins Publishers, 2005

40 pages

SUMMARY:

The story of how Buzz Aldrin's dream to walk on the moon's surface came true with years of determination and believing that any goal is possible.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

If You Decide to Go to the Moon by Faith McNulty

Reaching for the Moon: The Apollo Astronauts by Hal Marcovitz

Fallen Astronauts: Heroes Who Died Reaching for the Moon by Colin Burgess, Kate Doolan, Bert Vis, and Eugene Cernen

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Social Studies: Explorers
- Science: Space Exploration, Solar System

WEB SITES:

NASA <http://www.nasa.gov/>

National Air and Space Museum - Apollo to the Moon

<http://www.nasm.si.edu/exhibitions/attm/attm.html>

Exploring the Moon: Apollo11 Mission

<http://www.lpi.usra.edu/expmoon/Apollo11/Apollo11.html>

BOOKTALK:

In this readable autobiography, Aldrin, the second man to step foot on the moon, recounts episodes in his life that influenced his choice to become part of the space program. He briefly describes how he got his nickname and incidents from his childhood; his first airplane ride; his time at West Point and as an Air Force pilot; joining NASA; and his missions in the Gemini and Apollo programs, including the lunar landing. A brief chronology/timeline is included at the end that blends events of Aldrin's life with the history of flight and space exploration. Aldrin closes with a stirring afterword encouraging readers to follow their dreams. "Not everyone can explore space. But we all have our moons to reach for. If you set your sights high, you may accomplish more than you ever dreamed was possible. Just as I did."

Prepared by: Janet Kittrell

SEQUOYAH: THE CHEROKEE MAN WHO GAVE HIS PEOPLE WRITING

James Rumford
Houghton Mifflin, 2004
30 pages

SUMMARY:

A biography of Sequoyah, the Cherokee man who developed a system of writing for his people

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

Sequoyah by Laura Hamilton Waxman

Sequoyah, 1770? – 1843 (American Indian Biographies Series) by Yvonne Wakim
Dennis and William L. Anderson

Cherokee by Liz Sonneborn

If You Lived with the Cherokee by Peter Geiger Roop and Connie Roop

Soft Rain: A Story of the Cherokee Trail of Tears by Cornelia Cornelissen

First Strawberries: A Cherokee Story retold by Joseph Bruchac

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- Library Media Skills – Biographies
- English/Language Arts – Writing, Symbols or letters representing sounds
- Guidance – Ignoring others when you know you are doing a good thing.
Perseverance

WEB SITES:

<http://ngeorgia.com/people/sequoyah.html>

<http://www.powersource.com/gallery/people/sequoyah.html>

<http://ngeorgia.com/history/alphabet.html>

<http://www.sequoyahmuseum.org/SequoyahHistory.html>

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/catalog/authordetail.cfm?authorID=1388>

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wondered how letters were created? Did you ever think about why certain letters or combinations of letters represent certain sounds? If you have, then you have something in common with Sequoyah, the Cherokee Indian who created symbols to represent sounds for his people. Not everybody thought this was a good idea, but Sequoyah was certain it would be good for his tribes, so he persevered even when it wasn't the popular thing to do. To find out more about Sequoyah's symbols and to find out if Sequoyah was named after a tree or if the tree was named after this great strong man, read *Sequoyah, The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*.

Prepared by: Laura Linder

SWEET TOOTH

Margie Palatini

Simon & Schuster for Young Readers, 2004

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Stewart's loud, obnoxious sweet tooth constantly gets him into trouble until Stewart uses a healthy diet to take control of the situation

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Arthur's Tooth by Marc Brown

Maisy, Charley and the Wobbly Tooth by Lucy Cousins

Toot & Puddle: Charming Opal by Holly Hobbie

Little Bear Brushes His Teeth by Jutta Langreuter

The Bear's Toothache by David McPhail

Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth by Alison McGhee

Tabitha's Terrifically Tough Tooth by Charlotte Middleton

Dear Tooth Fairy by Karen Ruelle

The School Play by Rosemary Wells

Young Cam Jansen and the Lost Tooth by David Adler

Junie B., First Grader: Toothless Wonder by Barbara Park

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Dental Health

Nutrition

Teeth

WEB SITES:

<http://www.margiepalatini.com/>

http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/miscellaneous/dental_health_month.htm

<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/dental-health/index.html>

BOOKTALK:

Put your hand up if you like candy. How about cake? And let's not forget cookies and bubble gum! A little bit of sweets is not a bad thing, but Stewart had a sweet tooth that just wouldn't quit. It was always getting Stewart in trouble – like the time the tooth made Stewart eat an entire Easter basket filled with candy, leaving none for the rest of his family. Stewart was determined to cut this tooth off from sweets. That's right... no more cookies, candy, cake – no more sweets!! Could Stewart do it? He tried to stay strong and not give in to "The Sweet Tooth." And then, the tooth went too far. Join Stewart as he struggles to undermine the sweet tooth

Prepared by: Joanne Schwartz

TOO MANY FROGS

Sandy Asher

Philomel Books, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY: Rabbit's comfortable nightly routine is disturbed by exuberant Froggie, who settles in for a snack and a story without being invited.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

My Buddy, Slug by Jarrett Krosoczka

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

Bed Hogs by Kelly DiPucchio

Crispin and the 3 Little Piglets by Ted Dewan

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Language Arts: Who are you more like, Froggie or Rabbit? Read *Mrs. McBloom, Clean Up Your Classroom* by Kelly DiPucchio. Would Froggie or Rabbit more enjoy being in Mrs. McBloom's class?

Social Studies: Discuss manners and social responsibilities. How do you apologize appropriately? When have you had to apologize? When in our history, present day included, has someone had to apologize or didn't apologize when they should have? Read *Rules of the Wild: The Unruly Book of Manners* by Bridget Levin. What would the world be like if people spit like camels or roared like lions?

Science: Study frogs and rabbits, amphibians vs. mammals. Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast them.

Math/Science: How many frogs are too many? Discuss frogs as an indicator species. What is causing the decline in the frog population today?

Health/Guidance: Discuss friendship and what it means to be a good friend.

WEB SITES:

<http://www.scdiscus.org/>

Use DISCUS resources to research frogs, rabbits, amphibians, and mammals.

<http://go.grolier.com/>

Check out the WEB FEAT feature of Grolier's New Book of Knowledge (available on DISCUS) for educational games, puzzles, quizzes, and brainteasers.

BOOKTALK:

There's nothing better than reading with a good friend!

Stories are truly the best when shared. Froggie is loud, sloppy, and a little short on manners, but he loosens up that straight-laced, neat and tidy Rabbit because he "loves to listen!" Froggie teaches us that stories are better with snacks and comfortable pillows, but there's nothing better you can add to reading than a good friend! 😊

Prepared by: D'Etta Broam

TURTLE TIDE: THE WAYS OF SEA TURTLES

Stephen R. Swinburne
Boyd's Mill Press, 2005
32 pages

SUMMARY:

The story of one mother sea turtle and her offspring

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Carolina's Story: Sea Turtles Get Sick Too by Donna Rathmell and Barbara J. Bergwerf
Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean by Gail Langer Karwoski

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

- **Language Arts:** Have students prepare group presentations in which they talk about the special features of different types of sea turtles. Make "info posters" from these presentations, and post them around the school.
- **Social Studies:** Look up on a map where sea turtles are found and which of these are most endangered. Learn what humans have done to impact these different types of turtles and what humans can do to limit their impact on sea turtle habitats.
- **Science:** Visit National Geographic's Critter Cam to learn more about the marine habitat of sea turtles. (Website below.)
- **Math:** Have students play a simulation game in which some are turtles and some are predators mentioned in the book. Play several rounds and have the students guess how many sea turtles will be left at the end of that round, given the number of predators present that "year." Discuss the dynamics of the food chain that students observe from this game.

WEB SITES:

National Geographic's Critter Cam <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/crittercam/>
Sea World: <http://www.seaworld.org/infobooks/SeaTurtle/home.html>
Turtle Trax: <http://www.turtles.org/>
Turtle's Kidz Corner: <http://www.turtles.org/kids.htm>

BOOKTALK:

If you think getting to work or to school every morning is a challenge, check out the typical life of a sea turtle. In this illuminating picture book, a mother Loggerhead makes the long journey to the shore, digs a deep hole and lays 100 eggs. But even before those eggs have a chance to hatch, hungry raccoons come and devour an extraordinary number of them. After the hatchlings encounter ghost crabs and a host of other predators, only one baby turtle makes it to the sea. What chance does it have of surviving to adulthood to continue the life cycle? To help answer this question, the author offers additional information at the back of the book that explains not only the impact of other wildlife on sea turtles but also the negative impact that humans have had on these animals, many species of which are currently endangered. *Turtle Tide* offers a wonderfully artistic, but sobering, look at the life of these sea creatures.

Prepared by: Michelle Martin

WHEN CHARLIE McBUTTON LOST POWER

Suzanne Collins

G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005

32 pages

SUMMARY: A boy who likes nothing but playing computer games is in trouble when the power goes out and his little sister has all of the batteries in the house.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Power and Glory by Emily Rodda

Crispin, the Pig Who Had It All by Ted Dewan

Yikes by Robert Florczak

Kapow! by George O'Connor

Even Firefighters Hug Their Moms by Christine MacLean

Kamishibai Man by Allen Say

Meanwhile by Jules Feiffer

Traction Man Is Here! by Mini Grey

Pete's a Pizza by William Steig

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Science: Explore why the lights go out.

Social Studies: How has electricity changed our world? What was life like before it? How did people communicate? How did people entertain themselves?

Math: Make charts of how students spend free time. Compare time spent on free play vs. "sit-in-a-chair-and-stare" entertainment.

Health and Guidance: Discuss how to get along with siblings, the value of free play, physical vs. mental activities, and the dangers of childhood obesity as related to physical inactivity.

WEB SITES:

Center for Screen-Time Awareness

<http://www.tvturnoff.org/>

California Obesity Prevention Initiative

<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/copi/copiforms/tvtool.htm>

American Association for the Child's Right to Play

<http://www.ipausa.org/>

BOOKTALK:

What do YOU do when the lights go out? Charlie goes BERSERK! Everything he wants to do needs power! AAAAAHHHHH! When he robs the battery from his little sister's toy, he gets into trouble with Mom and ends up in time out. After he has time to think, he decides to play a game with Isabel Jane, and it turns out not EVERYTHING he can do for fun needs to be "plugged in!" Turn OFF your TV or Computer or Video Game and READ.

Prepared by: D'Etta Broam