

## **All the Water in the World**

George Ella Lyon

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2011

34 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

*All the Water in the World* by George Ella Lyon totally immerses the reader in the water cycle. From blue end papers and thrashing water on the title page, the reader is taken to a view of the tiny blue planet Earth from space. From space, Lyon moves to the familiar: water coming from a hose, puddles, and a cup of water. She also explains the water cycle using a wealth of vocabulary quite artfully and effectively. The reader will feel the words. Evaporation is shown by having the words "swirl up" and rise up the page from the sea. The use of blues, purples, and greens to convey wetness is quite effective, as is the use of browns and beige depicting a place where very little water is available.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Earth's Water*, Desmond Hume

*B is the Blue Planet: an Earth Science Alphabet*, Ruth Strother

*Water Changes*, Bobby Kalman

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.georgeellalyon.com> (Home page of the author)

<http://www.katherinetillotson.com/kt/home.html> (Home page of the illustrator)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BayExatv8IE> (bill Nye: Water Cycle Hip Hop Video)

[http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/studyjams/water\\_cycle/](http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/studyjams/water_cycle/)

### **BOOKTALK: (14 pt.)**

*All the Water in the World* by George Ella Lyon totally immerses the reader in the water cycle. From blue end papers and thrashing water on the title page, the reader is taken to a view of the tiny blue planet Earth from space. From space, Lyon moves to the familiar: water coming from a hose, puddles, and a cup of water. She also explains the water cycle using a wealth of vocabulary quite artfully and effectively. The reader will feel the words. Evaporation is shown by having the words "swirl up" and rise up the page from the sea. The use of blues, purples, and greens to convey wetness is quite effective, as is the use of browns and beige depicting a place where very little water is available. Children reading this book will understand the water cycle, and come to realize that he or she needs to be good water stewards. This is a good science read-aloud for the primary grades.

Prepared by:

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# **Astonishing Secret of Awesome Man**

Michael Chabon  
Balzer and Bray, 2011  
40 pages

## **SUMMARY:**

Once upon a time, there lived a man. But he was no ordinary man. He was awesome. He held super powers that astonish and defeat anyone he meets. This crusader does just that. Awesome Man goes toe to toe with many villains, including his nemesis, The Flying Eyeball! Through the drama, readers find out that Awesome Man has a secret identity. Who is this hero?

## **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Amazing Adventures of Bumblebee Boy*, Jacky Davis  
*The Woods*, Paul Hoppe  
*Superhero Joe*, Jacqueline Preiss Weitz  
*SuperHero ABC*, Bob McLeod  
*Superhero School*, Aaron Reynolds  
*Oh No! Not Again! (Or How I Built a Time Machine)*, Mac Barnett

## **WEBSITES:**

Create Your Own Superhero:

<http://marvel.com/games/cyos>

On this site, children may choose between various styles of hero, clothes, and powers to design their own hero!

Create Your Own Comic Strip:

[http://marvel.com/games/play/34/create\\_your\\_own\\_comic](http://marvel.com/games/play/34/create_your_own_comic)

Students may use their imaginations to create their own drama and magic in this comic world!

List of Top Ten Superhero Websites for Kids:

<http://www.topsite.com/best/superheroes>

Parent list of top sites for superhero loving kids!

## **BOOKTALK:**

Awesome Man is truly amazing! He can do what most humans dream of...he can shoot positron rays out of his eyeballs, fly as straight as an arrow, and hug mutant Jell-O! Villains from all over the land do not hold a candle to Awesome Man's powers. But this caped crusader also has a secret. Who is behind the cape and his awesomeness?

Prepared by:

Jennifer Jones and Ayden Jones, Pleasant Hill Elementary, [jjones@lexington1.net](mailto:jjones@lexington1.net)

## **Belle, the Last Mule at Gee's Bend**

Calvin Alexander Ramsey and Bettye Stroud

Candlewick Press, 2011

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

A boy visiting rural Gee's Bend, AL, learns about the struggle for civil rights from a townswoman who participated in the events of those tumultuous years.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*These Hands* by Margaret H. Mason (2010)

*Goin' Somewhere Special* by Patricia C. McKissack (2001)

*When I Was Little* by Toyomi Igus (1992)

### **WEBSITES:**

Photos of Gee's Bend residents, including some Pettways:

<http://bplonline.cdmhost.com/cdm/search/searchterm/Gee's%20Bend/field/all/mode/all/conn/and/order/title/ad/asc>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/fsahtml/fachap05.html>

Information on the famous Gee's Bend quilts:

<http://redeggallery.squarespace.com/red-egg-journal/tag/gees-bend> (scroll halfway down)

Interesting background for adults (some off-color language involved):

<http://www.geneseo.edu/~bennett/GEEBEND.htm>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Why on earth would anyone let that old mule eat the collards in their vegetable garden? Alex finds out when Mizz Pettway fills him in on it while he waits for his mother, who is shopping for a Gee's Bend quilt. The mule's name is Belle and Mizz Pettway says she earned the right to graze in that fine vegetable patch or anywhere else she'd like to eat in Gee's Bend. She says Belle was there when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., came to the settlement late one stormy night to inspire Benders to vote. The mule helped carry Benders to the town across the river the day the whites closed the ferry so the Benders couldn't vote. And she played another important role that you'll have to read the book to find out about. Don't miss Belle, the Last Mule in Gee's Bend.

Prepared by:

Betsy Russell, Bradley Elementary School, [erussell@richlandone.org](mailto:erussell@richlandone.org)

## **The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**

William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, pictures by Elizabeth Zunon

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

The author details how he ignored naysayers and was able to bring electricity and running water to his Malawian village when he built a makeshift windmill out of scrap metal and spare parts.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Windmill*, by Mark Friedman

*A Tale of One Well in Malawi*, by Sarah LeVete

*Galimoto*, by Karen Lynn Williams

*Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum*, by Meghan McCarthy

### **WEBSITES:**

TED, [http://www.ted.com/talks/william\\_kamkwamba\\_how\\_i\\_harnessed\\_the\\_wind.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/william_kamkwamba_how_i_harnessed_the_wind.html), William Kamkwamba speaking at TED 2009- The available subtitles aid in understanding his talk.

Moving Windmills, <http://movingwindmills.org/>. A project that supports economic development and education projects in Malawi.

Bryan Mealer, <http://bryanmealer.com/qa/>, the coauthor answers questions about the writing of the book.

Elizabeth Zunon, <http://www.lizzunon.com/>, official website of the illustrator.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Meet William, a boy from the country Malawi in Africa, who is curious and tenacious. Determined to find a way to feed the starving people in his village, and with the curious mind of a scientist, he discovers the answer in library books and a pile of discarded items. This story may inspire you to never give up on your dreams.

Prepared by:

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## **Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team**

Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Steven Salerno

Clarion Books, 2012

40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This book shares the story of the Acerras (pronounced “Uh-cher-ruh”- accent on the middle syllable, with the “CH” sound being more like “chair” and less like “Cher”) and their sixteen children, who had enough members to fill every position on a baseball team.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Teammates*, by Tiki Barber

*The Brothers Kennedy: John, Robert, Edward* by Kathleen Krull

*We are the Ship: the Story of Negro League Baseball* by Kadir Nelson

*Another Brother*, by Matthew Cordell

*Baseball Saved Us*, by Ken Mochizuki

*All Star! Honus Wagner and the Most Famous Baseball Card Ever* by Jane Yolen

### **WEBSITES:**

Audrey Vernick, <http://www.audreyvernick.com/>, official website of the author, including discussion guide for the book and a video of the Acerra brothers playing baseball.

Steven Salerno, <http://www.stevensalerno.com/>, official website of the illustrator, includes a Kids Book section.

The Library of Congress Join America at Play, [http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jp/bball/jp\\_bball\\_subj.html](http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jp/bball/jp_bball_subj.html), interactive website about the history of baseball.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Have you wanted to play a game of soccer, football, or baseball and not had enough people to make a team? That never happened in the Acerra family in which there were twelve brothers who all loved to play baseball. Each afternoon after the boys returned home from school, they would grab their gloves, balls, and bats and head outside to play baseball for the rest of the day. Eventually, the nine oldest brothers formed their own semi-pro team. That team became the longest-playing all-brother baseball team in the history of the sport. But mostly, this is a story of brothers who stuck together and were a team on and off the field.

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# **The Camping Trip that changed America: Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir and our National Parks**

Barb Rosenstock

Dial, 2012

32 pages

## **SUMMARY:**

After reading John Muir's book about the California wilderness and his fear that it would soon vanish, President Theodore Roosevelt asked Muir to show him this wilderness. After seeing the breathtaking sights and listening to Muir's stories Roosevelt set about creating parks, monuments and wilderness areas for future generations to enjoy.

## **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Here Come the Girl Scouts*, Shana Corey

*Brothers at Bat: the true story of an all-brothers baseball team*, Audrey Vernick

*John Muir: my life with nature*, John Muir

## **WEBSITES:**

PBS National Parks, <http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks/people/historical/muir/> The website for Ken Burns' documentary on the National Parks

National Park Service, <http://www.nps.gov/thri/johnmuir.htm>, section on John Muir and Theodore Roosevelt.

Yosemite History, <http://www.undiscovered-yosemite.com/Roosevelt.html>, includes photograph of the camping trip.

## **BOOKTALK:**

Stories are powerful things! They can change people's minds and they can spur someone to do great deeds. Thanks to John Muir's stories Teddy Roosevelt became interested in what would happen to our wilderness areas if no one protected them. He and Muir went on a 3-day camping trip for Roosevelt to see the California wilderness and afterwards the President made it his mission to protect these areas from destruction. Thanks to that trip and a friendship between two like-minded men, America has many National Parks that are protected for future generations to enjoy.

Prepared by:

Jill Altman, Saluda Primary School, [jaltman@saludaschools.org](mailto:jaltman@saludaschools.org)

# Chloe and the Lion

Mac Barnett

Hyperion Book, 2012

48 pages

## SUMMARY:

Mac and Adam are the author and illustrator of this humorous, quirky picture book, *Chloe and the Lion*, and they were friends until Adam decides a dragon would be cooler to draw instead of a lion and Mac fires him. What's an author to do? Things go from bad to worse artistically until the main character, Chloe, steps in to save her own story as well as her own drawing.

## IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

*Chopsticks*, by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*Creepy Carrots*, Aaron Reynolds

## WEBSITES:

Chloe and the Lion book trailer, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-QLaSrY11o>

A short, humorous video summary of the book by the author and illustrator.

Adam Rex's Illustrator's Blog, <http://adamrex.blogspot.com/2012/03/chloe-and-lion.html>

Site includes humorous video of a Kid's Picture Book Couples counseling session where the author and illustrator try to work out their artistic differences.

Mac Barnett website, <http://www.macbarnett.com/>

Author's website listing books and facts.

## BOOKTALK:

Who's more important--the author or the illustrator? What the reader thinks will be a straightforward story of Chloe who likes to visit the circus, turns out to be an all out pen and ink battle between the author and the illustrator who disagree on how the story should proceed with very humorous results. A dragon appears, someone gets fired, someone gets eaten, Chloe has to take steps to get her story finished and everyone learns the power of teamwork.

Prepared by:

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## Chopsticks

Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Hyperion Books, 2012

40 pages

### SUMMARY:

This book of kinship explores the dynamic of two inseparable friends. Chopsticks do everything together until one of them gets hurt! At first, the other one stays with his buddy through the healing process. Eventually, he is persuaded to go out and do things on his own. What results is a growth that wouldn't have occurred if they hadn't separated, as well as a lifelong friendship that can't be "broken."

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

*Spoon*, Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*This Plus That*, Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*Little Pea*, Amy Krouse Rosenthal

*How to Teach a Slug to Read*, Susan Person

*Dragons Love Tacos*, Adam Rubin

### WEBSITES:

Author's Website:

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

Whimsical website from the author

Origin of Chopsticks

<http://www.asianartmall.com/chopstickshistory.htm>

The History and Origin of Chopsticks

Personification Game

[http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CC8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpreviewgamezone.com%2Fgames%2Fsupershooter%2Findex.php%3F1635%26title%3DPersonification&ei=IAkQUZu5DIKc8gSxpoHIAw&usg=AFQjCNHWE\\_v4C-BBQakADrAjt8EbrDIPCg](http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CC8QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fpreviewgamezone.com%2Fgames%2Fsupershooter%2Findex.php%3F1635%26title%3DPersonification&ei=IAkQUZu5DIKc8gSxpoHIAw&usg=AFQjCNHWE_v4C-BBQakADrAjt8EbrDIPCg)

Basketball game to practice personification

### BOOKTALK:

These chopsticks have been best friends *forever!* But one day, this inseparable pair comes to a fork in the road. And for the very first time, they have to figure out how to function apart. What will they do without the other part of the pair? Will Chopsticks continue to be friends after one has explored a new and different world, or will he leave his best friend behind? This witty and inventive tale celebrates both independence and the unbreakable bonds of friendship.

Prepared by:

Jennifer Jones and Kennedy Flynn, Pleasant Hill Elementary, [jjones@lexington1.net](mailto:jjones@lexington1.net)



## Cloudette

Tom Lichtenheld

Henry Holt and Company, 2011

32 pages (unpaged)

### SUMMARY:

Cloudette is a very small cumulus cloud who, for the most part, doesn't mind being small. She enjoys the perks of being little, which include being called cute nicknames, having the best seat when watching fireworks, and being really good at hide-and-seek. Cloudette does have times when she feels like she isn't as important as bigger clouds. She can't create powerful rain storms, make gardens grow, or cause a snowstorm resulting in a snow day. One day, Cloudette is blown to a new neighborhood. There she finds a pond that is in danger of drying up. She takes all of her strength to create a rain storm that replenishes the pond, proving that even small clouds can make a big difference. *Cloudette* is a modern *Little Engine that Could*, reminding readers that everyone can make a difference. This book can also be used to introduce the water cycle to young children.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

*Little Cloud*, Eric Carle

*The Police Cloud*, Christoph Niemann

*All the Water in the World*, George Ella Lyon

*Lulu the Big Little Chick*, Paulette Bogan

*The Littlest Dinosaur*, Michael Foreman

### WEBSITES:

Tom Lichtenheld, [http://www.tomlichtenheld.com/childrens\\_books/cloudette.html](http://www.tomlichtenheld.com/childrens_books/cloudette.html)

Visit Tom's site to locate author info, book trailers, and a how it was made video.

The Water Cycle, [http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/kids/flash/flash\\_watercycle.html](http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/kids/flash/flash_watercycle.html)

Created by the US EPA, this website explains the water cycle in a kid-friendly format.

School Tube – The Water Cycle Song, <http://www.schooltube.com/video/4b5e4209b2007fcdc911/The%20Water%20Cycle%20Song>

[4b5e4209b2007fcdc911/The%20Water%20Cycle%20Song](http://www.schooltube.com/video/4b5e4209b2007fcdc911/The%20Water%20Cycle%20Song)

This website has a catchy song that teaches students the phases of the water cycle.

### BOOKTALK:

Have you ever felt like you're too small or young to make a difference? Well, that's exactly how Cloudette, a small cloud, feels in *Cloudette* by Tom Lichtenheld. There are certain things she loves about being small, such as being called cute nicknames by bigger clouds, having the best seat when watching fireworks, and being really good at hide-and-go seek. But, there are also times when she feels like she isn't as important as bigger clouds because she can't create a powerful rain storm, help gardens grow, make waterfalls, or cause a snowstorm that results in students having a day off from school. One day Cloudette is blown to a new neighborhood where she comes across a dry pond. She decides that she is going to do whatever she can to save

the pond and the frogs that live there, proving to everyone around her that even small clouds can make a big difference.

**Prepared by:**

Melissa Simmons, Marrington Elementary, [simmonsmelissa@bcdschools.net](mailto:simmonsmelissa@bcdschools.net)

## **The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town**

Mary Casanova

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Here's a Western that's definitely different. We come into town on the very day that outlaw Dirk Yeller hits town. He's a big guy with a reputation. Even his horse looks mean. Dirk wanders around town looking for something to soothe his restlessness. He's unsuccessful until he runs into our narrator, a youngster who understands Dirk's situation. They meet in a typical old Western street scene but there's no gunfight. The boy leads Dirk to the town library! Librarian Miss Jenny finds Dirk the right book and the boy helps him with the hard words. Dirk leaves, but promises he'll be back... not to terrorize the town but to continue using the library and, with an amorous wink, visit the librarian. The illustrations are lively and detailed: follow the lip-smacking cat as it attempts to get a mousey meal and chuckle at the rewards on the wanted posters.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Swamp Angel* by Anne Isaacs (1994)

*Thunder Rose* by Jerdine Nolen (2003)

*The Toughest Cowboy* by John Frank (2004)

*Little Old Big Beard and Big Young Little Beard* by Remy Charlip (2000)

*Jess and the Stinky Cowboys* by Janice Lee Smith (2004)

### **WEBSITES:**

The author explains her inspiration for the story at:

[www.marycasanova.com/journal/2011/dirk-yeller-is-here](http://www.marycasanova.com/journal/2011/dirk-yeller-is-here)

### **BOOKTALK:**

Outlaw Dirk Yeller comes to town to try to find something to take away his cat scratch fever, to keep coyotes from baying at the moon, to keep jumping beans from jumping, and to keep rattlesnakes from rattling. In other words, he's just plain restless and is looking for something to calm him down. He tries at the post office, the general store, the trading post and the saloon but it is not until Sam takes him to the library that Dirk finds what he's been looking for. Find out what Dirk finds at the library by reading *The Day Dirk Yeller Came to Town*.

Prepared by:

Betsy Russell, Bradley Elementary School, [erussell@richlandone.org](mailto:erussell@richlandone.org)

## **Here Come the Girl Scouts!**

Shanna Corey  
Scholastic Press, 2012  
40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

This adventurous and true story of Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low, known as Daisy to her family and friends, is told with warmth, humor and excellent illustrations.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Camping Trip that Changed America*, Barb Rosenstock  
*You forgot your skirt, Amelia Bloomer*, Shanna Corey

### **WEBSITES:**

Official Girl Scout website, [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org), Girl Scout Museum and Archives

Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, [www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org](http://www.juliettegordonlowbirthplace.org), Visit the house where she was born, see pics of early Girl Scouts, and learn her history.

Official site of the British Girl Guides, [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk), See their history in the About Us section.

### **BOOKTALK:**

Can one person make a difference in the world? Juliette Gordon Low, known as Daisy to her friends, said yes. Daisy was never delicate like girls of her time were supposed to be. She liked adventure, being outdoors and trying new things and, most importantly, she wanted to make a difference in the world. As an adult she traveled around the world and on one of her travels she discovered a children's group in England called the Boy Scouts who spent their time camping, swimming and learning how to do things on their own and they had a sister group called the Girl Guides. She thought this would be a perfect group for girls like her and she rushed back to Savannah and started the Girl Scouts. This book is the story of her life and how the Girl Scouts of America got started. It's also a book that is not just for girls but is good for anyone who likes history, adventure and fun!

### **Prepared by:**

Jill Altman, Saluda Primary School, [jaltman@saludaschools.org](mailto:jaltman@saludaschools.org)

## **Little Dog Lost**

Monica Carnesi

Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin), 2011

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

A true story, residents of Grudziadz, Poland, saw a dog floating on an ice floe in the Vistula River in January of 2010, but couldn't reach it. A scientific research ship found the dog 15 miles out in the Baltic Sea and were able to rescue him. He's now a crew member.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Herbert, the true story of a brave sea dog* by Robyn Belton (2010)

*Sally's Great Balloon Adventure* by Stephen Huneck (2010)

*A Home for Dixie* by Emma Jackson (2008) - pet adoption

### **WEBSITES:**

Actual footage of the rescue:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstoppers/howaboutthat/8284396/Dog-rescued-from-icy-water-finds-sea-legs.html>

Learn about the Baltic Sea's ice at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic\\_Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baltic_Sea)

Learn details of current ice conditions on the Baltic Sea at:

[http://www.itameriportaali.fi/en/itamerinyt/en\\_GB/jaatilanne/](http://www.itameriportaali.fi/en/itamerinyt/en_GB/jaatilanne/)

### **BOOKTALK:**

The Vistula River near Grudziadz, in the far north of Poland, was full of broken up ice on January 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2010. And on one of those ice floes, there was a little dog, all alone and cold and wet. He floated out of reach of the firemen who tried to rescue him and out into the cold Baltic Sea. Two days later, he was spotted by the crew of a scientific research ship. Read *Little Dog Lost* to find out what happened next in this real-life story.

Prepared by:

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**No Sleep for the Sheep**  
Karen Beaumont  
Harcourt Children's Books, 2011  
29 pages

**SUMMARY:**

A sleepy sheep finds no rest until all the farm animals are safely tucked in inside the big red barn.

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Time for Bed*, Mem Fox

*How Many Kisses Do You Want Tonight?* Varsha Bajaj

*While the World Is Sleeping*, Pamela Duncan-Edwards

*How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* Jane Yolen

*Woolbur*, Leslie Helakoski

*Duck at the Door*, Jackie Urbanovic

*Barnyard Banter*, Denise Fleming

**WEBSITES:**

Karen Beaumont's website is currently undergoing revision. <http://karenbeaumont.com/>

Jackie Urbanovic's website <http://www.jackieurbanovic.com/>

Hear the sounds of the farm animals and find a number of related activities for teachers and students at <http://www.kiddyhouse.com/Farm/animalsounds.html>

**BOOKTALK:**

It is time to go to bed for a good night's sleep. The teeth are brushed, the alarm is set, and the sheep is nicely sleepy... but the farm yard animals have other ideas. One by one they wake the sheep and ask for a place to sleep in the big red barn. When the rooster crows at sunrise, every animal is up and ready except for the sheep, who finally gets its sleep.

Prepared by:

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## One Cool Friend

Toni Buzzeo

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012

32 pages (unpaged)

### SUMMARY:

When Elliot and his father visit the aquarium, Elliot discovers a friend who shares the same sense of style and properness. Unfortunately, this friend is one of the Magellanic penguins living at the aquarium. Elliot politely asks his father if he can have a penguin, and his father, noticing the plush penguins for sale in the aquarium gift shop, gives him permission. Elliot takes his new friend, Magellan, from the aquarium and returns home. But, it isn't long before Elliot's father discovers the truth about his son's new friend.

### IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY . . .

*Billy Twitters and His Big Blue Whale Problem*, Mac Barnett

*365 Penguins*, Jean-Luc Fromental

*My Snake Blake*, Randy Siegel

*A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton*, Steven Kellogg

### WEBSITES:

Bronx Zoo, <http://www.bronxzoo.com/animals-and-exhibits/animals/birds/magellanic-penguin.aspx> Visit their website to learn interesting facts about the Magellanic Penguin.

San Diego Zoo's Animals Bytes, [http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-galapagos\\_tortoise.html](http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-galapagos_tortoise.html) Visit their website to learn more about Galápagos Tortoises. The site provides general information about tortoises as well as specific information about the tortoises living at the zoo.

Toni Buzzeo's Website, <http://www.tonibuzzeo.com/booksonecoolfriend.html> Visit the author's website for access to a curriculum guide, reader's theater script, and activity guide.

### BOOKTALK:

What would you do if you met your ideal pet? In *One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo, Elliot meets his perfect pet, a Magellanic penguin, at the local aquarium. When Elliot politely asks his father if he can have a penguin, his father, thinking Elliot is asking to buy a stuffed penguin from the gift shop, gives him permission. Elliot returns to the penguin display, grabs the smallest penguin, and puts him in his backpack. Once home, Elliot does everything he can think of to try to make the penguin, Magellan, comfortable: making an ice rink in his bedroom, baking anchovy pizzas for him, even letting him sleep in the freezer. But it isn't long before Elliot's father discovers the truth about his son's new pet. Elliot's father isn't the only one who will be surprised at the end of this clever book. To find out what happens, read *One Cool Friend* by Toni Buzzeo.

Prepared by:

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## **Pete The Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes**

Eric Litwin  
Harper Collins, 2011  
40 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Pete the Cat is back! This time his adventures draw him to school. He goes through the school day with usual woes. But, goodness no, Pete does not get upset. He reminds students to stay calm and stay cool while rockin' in school.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, Eric Litwin  
*Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*, Eric Litwin  
*Pete the Cat Saves Christmas*, Eric Litwin  
*We are in a Book*, Mo Williams  
*Llama, Llama, Time to Share*, Anna Dewdney

### **WEBSITES:**

Eric Litwin Website  
<http://www.ericlitwin.com/>  
Groovy Site with Songs and Info on Pete the Cat and More!

Pete the Cat Bok Video  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUVgSWsyIE8>  
Video with song!

Pete the Cat Art  
<http://www.petthecat.com/>  
Pete's Work in an Art Gallery in New Orleans

### **BOOKTALK:**

Tired of Pete the Cat? Goodness No! Pete the Cat has returned and this time he is wearing his school shoes! This tale continues Pete's journey as he starts school. Pete goes through his school day having experiences that all school children can relate to while singing and dancing and rockin' and groovin'. Read this new adventure about Pete the Cat...because "It's all good!"

Prepared by:  
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**Rrralf!**  
Lois Ehlert  
Beach Lane Books, 2011  
40 pages

**SUMMARY:**

This book, full of artistic energy, also involves an energetic dog names Ralf. His appealing personality grabs the reader as the narrator asks the dog numerous questions. Ralf answers them all using puppy puns! The kids will enjoy trying to answer these canine questions!

**IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Lots of Spots*, Lois Ehlert

*Boo to You*, Lois Ehlert

*No Sleep for Sheep*, Karen Beaumont

*Wiener Wolf*, Jeff Crosby

*No Dogs Allowed*, Linda Ashman

**WEBSITES:**

Want to Know More About The Author?

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/ehlert/>

Video Interview with Lois Ehlert

More Puns?

<http://j-walk.com/puns/dogpuns.htm>

Rough Dog Puns

Dog Jokes

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/jokes/animals/dog.shtml>

Puppy Jokes for Kids!

**BOOKTALK:**

Who is the talking dog at the center of this book? Rrralf! Where does his live? The rrrroof roof!

Want to hear more puppy puns? Check out Rrralf! He will have you yip yip yipping for more fun reads!

Prepared by:

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# **Sarah Emma Edmonds Was a Great Pretender**

Carrie Jones

Carolrhoda Books, 2011

40 pages

## **SUMMARY:**

Sarah Emma Edmonds ran away from home and needed money fast! She decided to join the Union Army. As a boy, she could do more, and that's just what she did! As Frank Thompson, Sarah was male nurse and eventually an important spy, Her role in the Civil War is unique and daring!

## **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, A Civil War Nurse*, Marissa Moss

*Blackout*, John Rocco

*Queen of the Falls*, Chris Van Allsburg

*Just in Time, Abraham Lincoln*, Patricia Polacco

## **WEBSITES:**

Info About Women of the Civil War

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1993/spring/women-in-the-civil-war-1.html>

Images of Women in the Civil War

<https://www.google.com/search?q=civil+war+women>

[+soldiers&hl=en&tbo=u&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ei=iRgQUfvIDYey9gTA0oGwCg&sqi=2&ved=0CDYQsAQ&biw=1376&bih=669](https://www.google.com/search?q=civil+war+women+soldiers&hl=en&tbo=u&tbm=isch&source=univ&sa=X&ei=iRgQUfvIDYey9gTA0oGwCg&sqi=2&ved=0CDYQsAQ&biw=1376&bih=669)

More Images of Women in and out of battle during the Civil War

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_oyJ-dG38A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_oyJ-dG38A)

Video of images during the war

## **BOOKTALK:**

Who dares to dress as a boy during the Civil War? Who can imagine WANTING to go face to face with the Confederate Army? Well, meet Sarah Emma Edmonds. She ran away from home and pretended to be a boy in the Union Army. Her risk taking brings her adventure and hard consequences. Read how she uses her skills of pretending to new levels!

Prepared by:

Jennifer Jones, Pleasant Hill Elementary, [jjones@lexington1.net](mailto:jjones@lexington1.net)

## **Three Hens and a Peacock**

Lester L. Laminack

Peachtree Publishers, 2011

30 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Everything was quiet on the Tucker's farm.....until the day that peacock showed up!

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash*, Trinka Hakes Noble

*Charlie the Ranch Dog*, Ree Drummond

### **WEBSITES:**

Lester Laminack

<http://www.lesterlaminack.com/index.htm> (about the author)

ABC Music and Me- Literacy tips for using *Three Hens and a Peacock*

<http://blog.abcmusicandme.com/archives/2094>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Things are quiet on the farm with all the animals doing their jobs. Until one day when a peacock showed up! Never have lived on a farm the peacock was not sure what his job was. So he wondered down to the road and just stood there receiving all kinds of attention. The jealous hens wanted to trade jobs with the peacock. Read this creative little story to see how it all works out.

Prepared by:

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## **Wiener Wolf**

Jeff Crosby

Disney Hyperion Books 2011

30 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Wiener Dog was bored with his life. He thought there really be must more so he leaves his cozy home to find it. Only to realize his life was pretty wonderful just the way it was.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...**

*Pretzel*, Margret Ray

*Charlie the Ranch Dog*, Ree Drummond

*Unlovable*, Dan Yaccarino

### **WEBSITES:**

Jeff Crosby

<http://jeffcrosby.wordpress.com>

Author Information, illustration gallery

Kids' Wings

[http://suzyred.com/pbks2012\\_Wiener\\_Wolf.html](http://suzyred.com/pbks2012_Wiener_Wolf.html)

many internet extensions for Wiener Wolf & additional literary connections as well

### **BOOKTALK:**

Wiener Dog has a cushy life – a warm lap, plenty of chew toys and treats, and all the TV he can watch. But There's something missing. Wiener Dog decides to go out on him own to find it. Even though it means leaving Granny at home. But is being on his own all it's cracked up to be? Reading this story may help you see how wonderful your home and family really are.

Prepared by:

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## **Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to Nap**

J.C. Phillips

Viking juvenile, year of publication

32 pages

### **SUMMARY:**

Wink the Nimble Ninja is the star of the Lucky Dragon Circus! But being a circus performer is hard work Wink is tired. It is time, Grandmother says, for Wink to take a nap. But every time Wink tries to lie down, his fans show up. They won't let him sleep! Fortunately, with the help of Master Zutsu and the Summer Moon School for Young Ninjas, Wink comes up with the perfect plan to find a good place to nap-alone. *Wink: the Ninja Who Wanted to Nap* by J. C. Phillips is illustrated with striking collages and is a funny, high-energy read-aloud.

### **IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY . . .**

*Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed*, J.C. Phillips

*Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle: Rise of the Snakes*, Tracey West

*Can I Just Take a Nap*, Ron Rauss

*Ninja Cowboy Bear Presents the Way of the Ninja*, David Bruins

### **WEBSITES:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFA9duBBvE>

### **BOOKTALK:**

Wink the Nimble Ninja is the star of the Lucky Dragon Circus! But (yawn) being a circus performer is hard work (yawn) Wink is tired. It is time, Grandmother says, for Wink to take a nap. But every time Wink tries to lie down, his fans show up. They won't let him sleep! Fortunately, with the help of Master Zutsu and the Summer Moon School for Young Ninjas, Wink comes up with the perfect plan to find a good place to nap-alone. The book is illustrated with striking collages and is funny and loaded with high-energy. If you are looking for a good book to read or read-aloud, *Wink: the Ninja Who Wanted to Take a Nap* by J.C. Phillips is the book for you.

Prepared by:

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