

Annie and Helen
Deborah Hopkinson
Schwartz & Wade Books, 2012
40 pages

SUMMARY:

Author Deborah Hopkinson and illustrator Raul Colon present the story of Helen Keller in a fresh and original way that is perfect for young children. Focusing on the relationship between Helen and her teacher, Annie Sullivan, the book is interspersed with excerpts of Annie's letters home, written as she struggled with her angry, wild pupil. But slowly, with devotion and determination, Annie teaches Helen finger spelling and Braille, letters, and sentences. As Helen comes to understand language and starts to communicate, she connects for the first time with her family and the world around her. The lyrical text and exquisite art will make this fascinating story a favorite with young readers.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller, Doreen Rappaport.
A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin, Jennifer Bryant.
Brave Irene, William Steig.

WEBSITES:

Anne Sullivan Macy: Miracle Worker; American Federation for the Blind,
<http://www.afb.org/annesullivan/>. Biographical information, including primary sources such as photographs and letters.

Helen Keller Kids Museum Online; American Federation for the Blind,
<http://braillebug.afb.org/hkmuseum.asp>. Biographical information in an easy-to-use format.

Perkins School for the Blind, <http://www.perkins.org/vision-loss/helen-keller/>. Biographical information on Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller.

BOOKTALK:

Most of us don't remember learning to talk-it happened naturally as our families talked to us from the time we were born. You experienced sounds and sights at the same time. But imagine living in a dark and silent world, unable to communicate with the people around you. This was Helen Keller's world. She became deaf and blind before she was two years old. By the time she was seven, her family was desperate to find a way to educate Helen. When Annie Sullivan arrived at Helen's home in March of 1887, it was the beginning of an amazing journey for both of them.

Prepared by:

Jill Eaton, Gray Court-Owings School, jeaton@laurens55.org

The Art of Miss Chew

Patricia Polacco
Philomel Books, 2012
32 pages

SUMMARY:

After spending the summer with her grandmother, who's an artist, Trisha decides she wants to be an artist. She's overjoyed when she gets to be in Miss Chew's special art class at the high school. She's disheartened when a substitute teacher tells her she needs to study instead of waste time on art. Fortunately, Miss Chew sees Trisha's potential and supports her study of art and the basics!

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Aunt Chip and the Triple Creek Dam Affair, Patricia Polacco (She has lots that are great!)
Thank you, Mr. Falker, Patricia Polacco
The Art Lesson, Tomie dePaola
Katie and the ... books, James Mayhew
Camille and the Sunflowers, Laurence Anholt (He has others too!)

WEBSITES:

Author's official website, www.patriciapolacco.com

This website has videos by the author, author info, a list of her books, news, appearances, fun stuff, teacher stuff, and more. Check out this inspirational author!

Author's bio, www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/patricia-polacco

This is a short biography about the life of Patricia Polacco, which would be an excellent way to start a study on this author. Scholastic also has other resources free to use.

BOOKTALK:

Inspiration comes in many forms! *The Art of Miss Chew* tells the story of an art teacher that puts forth effort to make a difference in a student's life. Miss Chew makes it her business to see that her student has the necessary opportunity to learn and tools needed to learn – in art and the basic building blocks of learning.

Prepared by:

Joy Benton, Ocean Bay Elementary, jbenton001@horrycountyschools.net

Becoming Babe Ruth

Matt Tavares
Candlewick, 2013
40 pages

SUMMARY:

A picture book biography about George Herman Ruth, who at the age of seven was taken by his father to the Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys and thus, changed the course of his life forever. Daily baseball games at Saint Mary's and encouragement from his instructors such as Brother Matthias created one of the greatest baseball players in the history of the sport, The Babe—and he never forgot them. Beautifully illustrated, this is an inspiring story about remembering where you came from and being the best at what you love.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Henry Aaron's Dream, Matt Tavares

Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an All-Brother Baseball Team, Audrey Vernick

WEBSITES:

Babe Ruth official site, <http://www.baberuth.com/>, Biography, statistics, quotes and photos.

Baseball Hall of Fame, <http://baseballhall.org/hof/ruth-babe>, Biography, video clips of Ruth, photos.

BOOKTALK:

By the time George was seven years old he was getting into lots of trouble and not going to school like he should. His parents were struggling just to keep the family fed and housed and didn't have a lot of time left over to make sure he stayed on the straight and narrow so they took him to the Saint Mary's Industrial School for Boys. The school, run by a group of Brothers from the Catholic church, was very strict. At the school George went to classes but he also got to play baseball nearly every day and he was good. So good that one of the teachers, Brother Matthias, took a special interest in his abilities and coached him in the game and even got a baseball scout to watch him play. George was signed onto a professional team immediately and soon became known to the world as Babe Ruth. But he never forgot his old school and often helped them financially and visited the boys living there. George starts out small but he becomes a legend.

Prepared by:

Jill Altman, Saluda Primary School, jaltman@saludaschools.org

Cowpoke Clyde and Dirty Dawg

Lori Mortensen
Clarion Books, 2013
32 pages

SUMMARY:

Cowpoke Clyde's house was completely clean—he'd even shooed off the horseflies: "Then right behind his cookin' pot, / he spied one thing he'd plumb forgot: / ol' Dawg, his faithful, snorin' friend, / all caked with mud from end to end." Needless to say, Dawg wakes up and runs. The chase that follows—with page-turn surprises—makes for a hilarious shaggy-dog story involving fleas, a hog, bribery, cats, deception, and a mule. The rhyming stanzas are pitch-perfect, Texas-style, and plumb near cry out to be read aloud. Austin's expressive acrylic and colored-pencil caricatures of Cowpoke Clyde and his menagerie are priceless. A storytime shoo-in!

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Dirty Cowboy by Adam Rex

Hogwash by Karma Wilson

Cowboy and Octopus by Jon Scieszka

Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy by Jan Thomas

The Toughest Cowboy, Or How the Wild West Was Tamed by John Frank

The Gingerbread Cowboy by Janet Squires

Thunder Rose by Jerdine Nolen

WEBSITES:

Lori Mortensen.com, http://www.lorimortensen.com/Cowpoke_Clyde_and_Dirty_Dawg.html,
The author's website includes an activity guide and book trailer

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum,

<http://cowboykids.nationalcowboymuseum.org/>

Museum exhibits, songs, and games teach about the history of cowboys.

BOOKTALK:

Cowpoke Clyde's house was clean! So clean he thought he'd done it all. But he forgot one thing – his dirty dog. Dawg was a mess! He'd run away from Clyde because he didn't want a bath. He stirred up trouble in his path. What will it take for Dawg to get clean?

Prepared by:

Carrie Shoolbred, Jesse Boyd Elementary School, ceshoolbred@spart7.org

Each Kindness

Jacqueline Woodson

Nancy Paulsen Books – An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 2012

32 pages

SUMMARY:

When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Will I Have a Friend?, Miriam Cohen

Oliver Button Is a Sissy, Tomie dePaola

Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story about Bullying, Becky Ray McCain

Mr. Lincoln's Way, Patricia Polacco

WEBSITES:

My Biography | Jacqueline Woodson

<http://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/all-about-me/my-biography/>

Autobiographical notes by Woodson on her official website.

Teaching Students to Prevent Bullying

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/teaching-students-to-prevent-bullying.html>

Curriculum resources for teachers from the National Education Association.

Friendship

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&id=1636&np=286>

Kids' Health: Women's and Children's Health Networks

Australian kids' site provides a friendship guide for children.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever done something that you wish you could change? Have you ever met a bully?

Chloe and her friends do not want to play or be friends with Maya, the new girl in their class.

She is different and doesn't wear new clothes. Maya tries to play and talk with them, but they

ignore her. After Maya moves away, Chloe learns an important lesson and is sad that it is too

late to make up for not being kind. Quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson: *You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.*

Prepared by:

Martha Taylor, McLees Academy of Leadership, marthataylor@anderson5.net

Exclamation Mark

Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Scholastic Press, 2013
48 pages

SUMMARY:

This is a story about an exclamation mark.
And this exclamation mark's story is really everyone's story.
It's about fitting in...
And standing out...
And, with the help of others,
Finding your way.
Because we all have an inner exclamation mark.
The question is, how to find it...
An unforgettable book by the award-winning New York Times bestselling team.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
Press Here by Herve Tullet
Zero by Kathryn Otoshi

WEBSITES:

If you haven't already, sign up for free activity guides from Scholastic at
www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/exclamation-mark

<http://www.k12reader.com/wham-a-fun-game-for-learning-about-exclamatory-sentences/>

This website gives instructions on how to play the “Wham!” game. This is age-appropriate for upper elementary school students.

BOOKTALK:

Exclamation mark is all alone. He just isn't like the other kids. Loneliness seems to be an inevitable way of life until he meets another punctuation mark that changes his life. Together, they learn to do exactly what they were meant to do. This story about friendship is a must-read and would be especially enjoyable to reluctant readers.

Prepared by: Jennifer Simmons, Anderson County Public Library, jsimmons5765@gmail.com

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore

William Joyce

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2012

56 pages

SUMMARY:

Mr. Lessmore loved words, stories and books and his life becomes one impossible, delightful story about books that comes full circle as one story ends and another's begins.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Mischievians, William Joyce

This is not my hat, Jon Klassen

WEBSITES:

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore – YouTube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJvSXQwBBQg, The Academy Award winning short film based on the book.

William Joyce author website, www.williamjoyce.com, lists other books and videos by the author.

BOOKTALK:

In this amusing adventure of an ending, a beginning and so on, a tornado hits Morris Lessmore's home and he is lost until he sees a lady floating by with a lot of books like balloons. She gives him a flying book that shows him the way to a huge library where he becomes the caretaker of the books and eventually writes his own book. He spends his days reading, repairing and sharing books with others. Months and years pass until we see the full circle of the story and we understand that everyone's story matters and that sometimes an ending is just the beginning.

Prepared by:

Katherine Altman, Saluda Elementary School, jaltman@saludaschools.org

Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington

Jaban Asim

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2012

48 pages

SUMMARY:

An illustrated introduction to the life of Booker T. Washington that focuses on his hard work and determination to earn a college degree. Includes bibliographical references.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Who Was Harriet Tubman?, Yona Zeldis McDonough

Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America, Andrea Davis Pinkney

Rosa, Nikki Giovanni

A Man for All Seasons: the Life of George Washington Carver, Stephen Krensky

WEBSITES:

Booker T. Washington: "Fifty Cents and a Dream" EconEdLink

<http://www.econedlink.org/lessons/index.php?lid=1154&type=educator>

Lesson plan to help "young students make connections between history and economic concepts."

Watch. Connect. Read.: An Interview with Author Jabari Asim

<http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2012/12/an-interview-with-author-jabari-asim.html>

Mr. Schu Reads blogger John Schu interviews author.

Booker T. Washington National Monument (U.S. National Park Service)

<http://www.nps.gov/bowa/index.htm>

Photographs and information about Washington and the farm where he was born.

BOOKTALK:

Booker always wanted to learn, and he dreamed of the day that he could get an education. He was born into slavery and was not allowed to go to school. Even after slavery ended he still had to work hard to survive, first in a salt furnace and then in the coal mines. He learned his ABCs at night by teaching himself from a spelling book his mother gave him. Booker heard about a school for Negroes called the Hampton Institute, and his dream grew stronger. He worked and saved every penny he could until he finally set off for school. Booker still had many rough times to get through, but he made it to school and he never quit learning. He became a famous teacher and educator who spent his life giving others the chance to learn.

Prepared by:

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The Granddaughter Necklace

Sharon Dennis Wyeth

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2013

32 pages

SUMMARY:

A sentimental story tracing the path of a family heirloom necklace passed down from daughter to daughter with brief glimpses into each recipient's personal story.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Matchbox Diary, Paul Fleischman

Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller, Doreen Rappaport

WEBSITES:

Sharon Dennis Wyeth author page, <http://www.sharondenniswyeth.com/>

Links to sections about her current books, her blog and other books she's written. Includes section where she reads portions of her books.

BOOKTALK:

Inspired by her own journey to discover her family history, the author tells a tantalizing story of family traditions as a mother tells her daughter about the necklace that is passed down the generations from mother to daughter. Each story leads to the next family member to receive the necklace and takes us further back in time and all the way to Ireland.

Prepared by:

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The House That George Built

Suzanne Slade

Charlesbridge Publishing, 2012

32 pages

SUMMARY:

This is the story of the President's House. As the first president of a new country, George Washington was busy. But despite all the laws he needed to pass, and the important people that he needed to meet, George had a special idea: he wanted to build a house where all the future presidents could live. This book shows how the president's house came to be—starting with the contest George held to choose the perfect design for this legendary landmark, all the way to President John Adams's move into the grandiose home. Cleverly written in the familiar format of "The House That Jack Built," Slade supplements her rhyming verse with lively conversational prose, describing how George was involved in this project from beginning to end, from selecting the location to figuring out how to get the thousands of heavy bricks to the construction site. Rebecca Bond's watercolor illustrations help readers follow the steps to what became the White House as we know it today. This book provides American history, rhythm and rhyme, biographical text, and the study of architecture.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Story of the White House, Marge Kennedy

White House, Julie Murray

The White House, Nathan Aaseng

WEBSITES:

The Changing White House, <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/whitehouse/timeline/1792.html>

This site provides a timeline of the history of the White House and its changes.

The White House Historical Association, <http://www.whitehousehistory.org>

This site provides information about the White House, its history, current events, and rental information.

BOOKTALK:

This book is a fun adventure into the history of the White House and its creator, George Washington. From selecting the land to hauling the bricks, George was the primary force behind the creation of the White House, the home of the Presidents. The author and illustrator have combined to give readers an inside look into the building of the White House and the determination of George Washington to make it happen.

Prepared by:

Karen Wimberly, Bethune-Bowman Elementary School, Karen.Wimberly@ocsd5.net

If You Spent a Day with Thoreau at Walden Pond

Author Robert Burleigh
Henry Holt and Company, 2012
32 pages

SUMMARY:

A modern child steps back in time to spend a day with Henry David Thoreau at his cabin near Walden Pond.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Thoreau would hate the thought of you staying inside reading about nature instead of exploring it outdoors! But you would benefit from these:

Any of the *Crinkleroot* series by Jim Arnosky

Any of the *Golden guides to nature* as you explore outdoors

Any of the *Peterson guides to nature* as you explore outdoors

And, of course, your home (even your body) is a habitat you share and can explore when the weather's bad.

If possible, try to purchase a hand lens or a microscope to see the details.

WEBSITES:

At the Creation (an NPR report), <http://www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/patc/walden/>

Thoreau Society, <http://www.thoreausociety.org/>

Walden Pond State Reservation, <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-north/walden-pond-state-reservation.html>

Walden Woods, http://www.walden.org/Explore/Walden_Woods_Ecosystem/Walden_Pond

BOOKTALK:

Slow down and really live a day, opening your senses to *all* that is around you. See *every* detail, celebrate life, know what the plants and animals around you are, do, and mean to their world. Become an ecologist and, maybe, an environmentalist. Henry David Thoreau would be glad you joined him.

Prepared by:

Betsy Russell, Bradley Elementary School, erussell@richlandone.org

Lost and Found

Bill Harley
Peachtree Publishers
32 pages

SUMMARY:

When Justin loses the special hat his grandmother made for him, he looks everywhere he can think of to find it. Everywhere, that is, except the Lost and Found. Mr. Rumkowski, the old school custodian, is the keeper of all the lost and found items.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Lost-and-Found Tooth, Louise Borden

The A+ Custodian, Louise Borden

The Custodian from the Black Lagoon, Mike Thaler

WEBSITES:

Bill Harley's Website, <http://www.billharley.com/default.asp>, This website is filled with information about Bill Harley and his songs, stories as well as his books. There is a section for teachers with links to resources. The website is visually interesting and fun to explore.

BOOKTALK:

Justin loses his favorite hat. It was the one his grandmother made for him. Now his grandmother is coming for a visit and he needs to find his hat. When his mom says he has to go to the Lost and Found and look for it, Justin tries to find it himself rather than go there. When he can't find it, he knows he will have to talk to Mr. Rumkowski, the grumpy old custodian that every student avoids. Will he go? What will Mr. Rumkowski say? Will he find his hat? Read this story to find out and get a surprise!

Prepared by:

Sandra Ferguson, Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center,
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My First Day

Steve Jenkins

Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2013

32 pages

SUMMARY:

The first day of life is different for every animal. Human newborns don't do much at all, but some animals hit the ground running. The Caldecott Honor–winning team Steve Jenkins and Robin Page apply their considerable talents to revealing how twenty two different species, from the emperor penguin to the Siberian tiger, adapt to that traumatic first few hours of life, with or without parental help. Jenkins's vividly colorful cut-paper illustrations are eye-poppingly three-dimensional and as exquisite as ever. While the text is short and sweet, an illustrated guide provides descriptions of the twenty two animals in the back. Fantastic!

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Does A Kangaroo Have A Mother, Too, Eric Carle

Big Babies, Little Babies, Lorrie Mack

Some Babies Are Wild, Marion Dane Bauer

WEBSITES:

Steve Jenkins' Official website, <http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com/>. Learn how an idea becomes a book, the science behind the books Steve Jenkins writes, and find a list of all of his books. Includes a short video of how the book *Move* was made.

BOOKTALK:

Do you like to hear the story of the day you were born? In this book, *My First Day*, you will get to see what the first day is like for many different animals. Some of the animals can do many things on their first day, like the capybaras that can swim and dive when they are just a few hours old. Other animals are very helpless, like the Siberian tiger cub that can't open its eyes. Let's talk about what you could and could not do on your first day, and then read the story. We can compare and contrast your first day with some of the animals in the story.

Prepared by:

Jill Eaton, Gray Court Owings School, jeaton@laurens55.org

Nellie May Has Her Say

Cynthia DeFelice

Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, 2013

32 pages

SUMMARY:

Nellie May Nimble and her twelve brothers and sisters live with their parents in a tiny cottage in the Bottoms, where there's never enough food to feed so many hungry mouths. Nellie May decides that she is old enough to earn her keep and takes a job as Lord Ignasius Periwinkle's new housekeeper and cook. Along with her many chores, Lord Periwinkle also expects Nellie May to learn his own special language. So Nellie May sets to work, using a wet scooperooty to hold the rivertrickle she mops the floor with and then cooking supper for him, the Most Excellent of All Masters. But late that night, when a spark from the flaming pop-and-sizzle lands on the fur-faced fluffenbarker's wigger-wagger, Nellie May puts her foot down. She'll save his roof-topped castleoroom, but she will *not* be his fuzzy-dust-and fooder any longer.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Master of All Masters, English folktale

The Gingerbread Boy: a Folk Tale Classic, Paul Galdone

Cat and the Beanstalk, Charlotte Guillian

WEBSITES: (14 pt.)

Cynthia DeFelice site, <http://cynthiadefelice.com/>, author's home page with information about her and titles of her books

Pitara Kids Network, <http://www.pitara.com/talespin/folktales.asp>, a collection of folk tales from around the world

BOOKTALK:

This book is a rollicking, fun adventure into the world of language. The author has put together a tale of Lord Periwinkle and Nellie May, a man with a gift of language and a spunky heroine. Nellie May brings fun to Lord Periwinkle's life and his castle. The author uses funny words for everyday objects and turns this retelling into a fun adventure.

Prepared by:

Karen Wimberly, Bethune-Bowman Elementary School, Karen.Wimberly@ocsd5.net

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein

Jennifer Berne

Chronicle Books LLC, 2013

48 pages

SUMMARY:

"A boy rides a bicycle down a dusty road. But in his mind, he imagines himself traveling at a speed beyond imagining, on a beam of light. In that brilliant mind will one day be born some of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived. From a boy endlessly distracted by the wonder of the world, Albert Einstein grew into a man who would embody genius, and would shine a profound light on our understanding of our universe.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Manfish by Jennifer Berne

The Boy Who Loved Math by Deborah Heiligman

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter.

WEBSITES:

The Classroom Bookshelf, <http://classroombookshelf.blogspot.com/2013/06/on-beam-of-light.html> This website introduces scientists and science units.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/education/activities/3213_einstein.html This website includes activities that can be used in the classroom as well as a 37 pages teacher's guide in pdf format.

[http://www.bookrags.com/Albert_Einstein_\(Levinger\)/](http://www.bookrags.com/Albert_Einstein_(Levinger)/) This website includes downloadable study guides, lesson plans and activities on Albert Einstein.

BOOKTALK:

"Albert Einstein, you are a disruption to your class!" "Albert Einstein, you will never amount to anything!" Can you believe these are some of the things the great scientist Albert Einstein heard when he was a kid? Albert Einstein was so smart, other people could not see all the potential he had BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP! Are you different? So was Albert. Do you like numbers? So did Albert! Do you hate wearing sock?? *So did Albert, so much so that once he grew up, he refused to wear them!* Because of Albert Einstein, scientists are still asking questions today "that someday YOU may answer...by wondering, thinking, and imagining. Read this book, be encouraged!

Prepared by:

Jennifer Simmons, Anderson County Public Library, jsimmons5765@gmail.com

That Is Not a Good Idea!

Mo Willems
Balzer + Bray, 2013
48 pages

SUMMARY:

Inspired by the evil villains and innocent damsels of silent movies, Willems tells the tale of a hungry fox who invites a plump goose to dinner. As with the beloved Pigeon books, kids will be calling out the signature refrain and begging for repeated readings. The funny details in the full-color illustrations by three-time Caldecott Honoree Mo Willems will bring nonstop laughter to story time.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
We Are in a Book by Mo Willems
Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox
The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck by Beatrix Potter

WEBSITES:

Mo Willems' Website, www.mowillems.com
Play games and learn about Mo Willems and his books.

That is Not a Good Idea! book trailer, www.youtube.com/watch?v=85iNSZpXR60
Watch the official book trailer.

Who Was Charlie Chaplin?, <http://kinooze.com/2012/11/03/who-was-charlie-chaplin/>
Learn about this silent film star and watch a hilarious short film that will make you shout "That is not a good idea!"

BOOKTALK:

Fox was hungry, and Fox thought he was smart. Fox thought Goose would be the perfect dinner. But little did he know that Goose has a big surprise for him. Little geese have a lot to say about what will happen to Fox that day!

Prepared by:

Carrie Shoolbred, Jesse Boyd Elementary School, ceshoolbred@spart7.org

Touch the Sky: Alice coachman, Olympic High Jumper

Ann Malaspina

Albert Whitman and Company, 2012

32 pages

SUMMARY:

A biography of the first African-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal (high jump).

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Queen of the Track: Alice Coachman, Olympic High-Jump Champ by Heather Lang

Wilma Rudolph: How Wilma Rudolph Became the World's Fastest Female by Kathleen Kroll

Nothing But Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson

Girls Can!: Make It Happen by Rick Kupchella

WEBSITES:

Archive of the 1948 Olympics, <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2012/aug/11/archive-1948-olympics-alice-coachman-first-black-woman-gold>

National Women's History Museum, <http://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/biography/biographies/alice-coachman/>

Publisher's teacher guide,

<http://www.albertwhitman.com/resources/BookResources/6/6/documents/teachers-guide.touchthesky.annmalaspina1.pdf>

See and hear Alice, <http://www.mysouthwestga.com/neighborhood/story.aspx?id=722616>

Today Show (8/10/12) interview, <http://www.blackandmarriedwithkids.com/2012/08/video-alice-coachman-the-first-african-american-woman-to-win-olympic-gold/>

USA Track and Field, <http://www.usatf.org/halloffame/TF/showBio.asp?HOFIDs=32>

Visionary Project, <http://www.visionaryproject.org/coachmanalice/>

BOOKTALK:

You couldn't stop Alice Coachman from running and jumping when she was growing up. Born in segregated Albany, Georgia, in the 1920's, it was a time when most girls weren't allowed to compete, let alone a black girl. But Alice didn't take no for an answer. She pursued her dream to be the best high jumper in the world. Read about how her persistence and hard work got her to the 1948 Olympic Games, where she became the first African-American woman to win a gold medal.

Prepared by:

Betsy Russell, Bradley Elementary School, erussell@richlandone.org

When Grandmama Sings

Margaree King Mitchell

Amistad, 2012

34 pages

SUMMARY:

"Belle, tonight was special. I could feel all of those folks with me. I want us to feel this way all the time. I want to sing in a place where black people and white people aren't kept apart," Grandmama said. "That's the kind of world I want for you."

When Grandmama Coles gets a big chance, Belle gets one, too. Belle's going to spend the summer touring the South with Grandmama and a swing jazz band! Belle's never been outside Pecan Flats, Mississippi, and she can't wait to go on the road with Grandmama, helping her read signs and menus and hearing her sing. There are so many new things to see on their travels through the Deep South. But some things aren't new. Everything is segregated, just like at home. But Grandmama stands up for what's right. And when she sings, Belle knows that Grandmama's song can bring everyone together.

From Margaree King Mitchell and James E. Ransome, the award-winning author and artist of *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*, comes this new picture-book collaboration about the gift of love, the beauty of music, and its power to bring people together—even in the segregated South.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

A Bus of our Own, Freddi Williams Evans

Coming on Home Soon, Jacqueline Woodson

Goin' Someplace Special, Patricia McKissack

In My Momma's Kitchen, Jerdine Nolen

Just as Good: How Larry Doby Changed America's Games, Chris Crowe

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song, Andrea Davis Pinkney

Show Way, Jacqueline Woodson

Uncle Jed's Barbershop, Margaree King Mitchell

When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat, Muriel Harris Weinstein

WEBSITES:

Bringing History Home, http://www.bringinghistoryhome.org/assets/bringinghistoryhome/3rd-grade/unit-2/3_seg_lesson_plans.pdf - Lesson plans on segregation in the South with activities

Harper Collins,

http://www.harpercollins.com/authors/17773/Margaree_King_Mitchell/index.aspx - Margaree King Mitchell, author biography & book list

James Ransome, <http://www.jamesransome.com/new.html> - Readers can get a feel for these pictures at the illustrator's website book trailer.

National Grandparents Day, <http://www.nationalgrandparentsday.com/activities.html> - Classroom ideas and lesson plans for Grandparent's Day

BOOKTALK:

When Grandmama Sings is set in the early 20th century during a time of racial segregation. Eight-year-old narrator Belle lives with her parents and Grandmama in the fictional town of Pecan Flats, Mississippi. Grandmama's singing voice has earned her local fame, and when a man offers to "book her and a band on a small singing tour of the South," she agrees, bringing Belle along for the ride. The band encounters plenty of discrimination on the road but triumphs outweigh the setbacks. Grandmama's expressions range from weariness to passion while she's singing and determination when she slams money on the counter of a restaurant that won't serve them. This book is a stirring reminder that it's never too late to chase one's dreams, no matter the obstacles.

Prepared by:

Cathy Poole, Lesslie Elementary School, CPoole@rhmail.org

Who Put the Cookies in the Cookie Jar

George Shannon

Henry Holt and Company, New York

30 pages

SUMMARY:

It's easy to take a cookie out of the cookie jar: just reach in. But how does it get in there in the first place? It's more complicated than you might think. Someone has to milk the cow, grow the wheat, harvest the sugar cane—everyone has a special job to do to make that cookie possible. George Shannon and Julie Paschkis take us on a delicious cookie journey, showing how many hands work together so that one hand can take the cookie out—and so that you can take a huge yummy bite!

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Let's Bake a Cake, Ruth Walton

How to Make a Cherry Pie and See the U. S. A., Marjorie Priceman.

WEBSITES:

The World of George W. Shannon, <http://www.georgewbshannon.comcastbiz.net/>. Here you will find information about the author, activities for students, suggestions for other books to read, and links to sites of interest.

Website for Julie Paschkis, <http://www.juliepaschkis.com/>. This website provides information about the illustrator of this book and her work.

Recipes for Kids at <http://kidshealth.org/kid/recipes/>. If you're hungry, grab your apron and get cooking! Making food yourself - with a little help from a parent - is a great way to learn about food and meal preparation. And we have plenty of recipes for you to try - from pizza to pancakes!

BOOKTALK:

For this booktalk use a nice cookie jar as a prop and place notes in it with implements and ingredients needed and tasks to be performed to make the cookies. Have one slip less than the number of students in your group. Student volunteers can then pull the slips with the words or pictures out of the jar as the teacher introduces the story.

Have you ever wondered what it takes to make a jar full of cookies? Let's see if we can think of all the people who "have a hand" in making a batch of sugar cookies....

As the students pull out the slips line them up. The one student left will be the one to pull the finished cookie out of the jar.

Prepared by:

Lisa Lepionka, Broad River Elementary School, lisa.lepionka@beaufort.k12.sc.

Z is for Moose
Kelly Bingham
Greenwillow Books, 2012
32 pages

SUMMARY:

Z is for Zebra. Zebra is absolutely certain he'll be able to direct everyone to appear on the correct page, at the appropriate time, without any mishaps, unnecessary drama, or hurt feelings. It's the ABCs, for goodness' sake. How difficult can it be? Oh, dear. Zebra forgot about moose.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Moose on the Loose, Kathy-jo Wargin
It's a Book, Lane Smith
A is for Musk Ox, Erin Cabatingan

WEBSITES:

Kelly Bingham's author website <http://site.kellybinghamonline.com/> includes a section dedicated to *Z is for Moose* http://site.kellybinghamonline.com/Z_IS_FOR_MOOSE.html. Here you will find a link to a book trailer on YouTube made by the illustrator Paul O. Zelinsky, or go to it directly on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aP52OtZxPdg>.

Paul. O. Zelinsky is a Caldecott winner and the creator of *The Wheels on the Bus*. On his website you will find an intriguing list of books he has illustrated. <http://paulozelinsky.com/index.html>.

Z is for Moose activities http://www.rif.org/documents/us/Z-Is-for-Moose_A-RIF-Guide-for-Educators.pdf. This page is ready made to be included in an emergency lesson plan. Questions and discussion topics are included. And here are some extension activities http://www.rif.org/documents/us/Z-Is-for-Moose_RIF-Extension-Activities-for-Educators.pdf

BOOKTALK:

Do you think that writing an alphabet book is easy? Do you think that all you have to do is line up a bunch of animals and things and put them in ABC order? Well sometimes you have to make choices, and in this book one of the animals is unhappy because he does not get his way? How can zebra solve this problem? Well, let's find out....

Prepared by:

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Eight Days Gone

Linda McReynolds

Charlesbridge, 2012

44 pages (unpaged)

SUMMARY:

Snappy verse and retro art recounts *Apollo 11*'s historic, eight-day mission to the moon in 1969. Young readers learn the basics about the gear, equipment, and spaceship used by the astronauts, as well as the history of NASA's moon mission (titlewave.com).

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Walking on the Moon: the amazing Apollo 11 mission, Carl R. Green

Moonshot: the flight of Apollo 11, Brian Floca

If You Decide to Go to the Moon, Faith McNulty

WEBSITES:

We Choose the Moon: Pre-launch, <http://wechoosethemoon.org/>

Created by the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, this interactive site allows kids to see animated scenes, photos, videos, and audio clips of each stage of the Apollo 11 mission.

Kidport Reference Library: Moon Landing,

<http://www.kidport.com/reflib/science/moonlanding/moonlanding.htm>

This is an online reference library designed to be fun and easy for children to use. There is plenty to discover about other areas of science, social studies, and language arts.

The Incredible Story of Apollo 11 – Photo Gallery – National Geographic Magazine,

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/1969/12/moon-landing/moon-photography#/01-moon-walk-714.jpg> - Photos & captions originally published in the Dec. 1969 issue of *National Geographic*.

BOOKTALK:

“6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0 . . . all engines running. We have a lift-off! Lift-off!” Imagine these are the last words you hear before launching into outer space. You don’t know if you will return to Earth safely or ever see your family again. How would you feel? Scared? Nervous? Excited? This is exactly how Neil Armstrong, Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin, and Michael Collins – the three astronauts on Apollo 11 – felt on July 16, 1969 when they left Earth on a mission to reach the moon, something that had never been accomplished by any other human. Read about their exciting eight-day space mission in Linda McReynolds’ *Eight Days Gone*.

Prepared by:

Melissa Simmons, Marrington Elementary, simmonsmelissa@bcstdschools.net

Henry and the Cannons

Don Brown

Roaring Brook Press, 2013

32 pages (unpaged)

SUMMARY:

Presents an illustrated account of how bookseller Henry Knox moved 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston during the Revolutionary War, helping Americans to make a pivotal victory.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Henry Knox: bookseller, soldier, patriot, Anita Silvey

Those Rebels, John & Tom, Barbara Kerley

The Ride: the legend of Betsy Dowdy, Kitty Griffin

WEBSITES:

Fort Ticonderoga: America's Fort, <http://www.fortticonderoga.org/>
Visit this website to learn more about the history of Fort Ticonderoga.

Montpelier: the General Henry Knox Museum, <http://knoxmuseum.org/index.html>
Visit this website to find a brief biography on Henry Knox as well as pictures of his home, Montpelier, in Thomaston, Maine.

The Knox Trail: A New York State History Month 2000 Project,
<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/KnoxTrail/index.html#top>
This website provides history of the 1776 Knox Cannon Expedition, General Henry Knox biography, Knox Trail Monuments' virtual tour, and the 1776/1976 Living History Reenactment.

BOOKTALK:

George Washington needed cannons. The city of Boston was overrun by British soldiers. Washington knew if he had cannons, he could force the British to leave Boston. But the nearest cannons were 300 miles away at Fort Ticonderoga, a trip that would be extremely difficult to make. Henry Knox, a bookseller, thought that he had a plan to move the cannons. Many thought he was crazy to suggest that he, a bookseller, could successfully move 59 cannons over 300 miles in the middle of winter. However, Washington believed in Knox's plan and sent him on a dangerous mission that would require crossing frozen lakes and steep mountain passes in freezing weather. Read about the amazing journey that changed the outcome of the American Revolution in Don Brown's *Henry and the Cannons*.

Prepared by:

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Extra Yarn
Mac Barnett
Balzer-Bray, 2012
40 pages

SUMMARY:

With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Knit Your Bit: A World War I Story, Deborah Hopkinson

From Sheep to Sweater, Robin Nelson

Charlie Needs a Cloak, Tomie DePaola

That Darn Yarn, Tony Millionaire

WEBSITES:

Mac Barnett's Official website, <http://macbarnett.com/>. Learn about Mac Barnett and all the books he has written.

KnitCircus Kids, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv0e_Y-SuUM. Learn how to knit.

BOOKTALK:

A little girl named Annabelle, who lives in a colorless town, finds a box filled with beautiful yarn and makes a sweater for herself. When she is finished, there is extra yarn. So she makes a sweater for her dog, her teacher, family, friends, and neighbors. Amazingly there is still extra yarn! So she starts knitting sweaters for the trees and buildings and the town becomes more colorful and the people are happier. A greedy duke tries to buy Annabelle's yarn box, but when she refuses, he steals it from her and sails back to his kingdom. What will the Duke discover when he gets the box back to his castle? Read *Extra Yarn* to find out.

Prepared by:

Jill and Sophia Eaton, Gray Court-Owings School, jeaton@laurens55.org

It's Our Garden: From Seeds to Harvest in a School Garden

George Ancona

Candlewick Press, 2013

48 pages

SUMMARY:

At an elementary school in Santa Fe, the bell rings for recess and kids fly out the door to check what's happening in their garden. As the seasons turn, everyone has a part to play in making the garden flourish from choosing and planting seeds in the spring to releasing butterflies in the summer to harvesting in the fall to protecting the beds for the winter. Even the wiggling worms have a job to do in the compost pile! On special afternoons and weekends, neighborhood folks gather to help out and savor the bounty (fresh toppings for homemade pizza, anyone?). Part celebration, part simple how-to, this close-up look at a vibrant garden and its enthusiastic gardeners is blooming with photos that will have readers ready to roll up their sleeves and dig in.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

In the Garden with Dr. Carver, Susan Grigsby

My Garden, Kevin Henkes

WEBSITES:

George Ancona's website, <http://georgeancona.com/> , This website includes information about the photographer and his books. There is a great list of his books divided into subjects and he tells help a reader about how he creates a book.

Acequia Madre School Garden, <http://acequiamadregarden.org/> , This website includes more photos and a history of the garden.

The Edible Schoolyard Project, <http://edibleschoolyard.org/> , This website provides information and resources if you are interested in creating a school garden. There are lessons and features programs to stimulate ideas.

BOOKTALK:

Have you thought about a class or school garden? This book documents with photographs and student drawings just how a garden was created and grew in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Recess is time for working in the garden. Students help build, plant and tend their garden. The community even comes and helps on weekends. Part "how to" book, part celebration and totally inspiration this book will leave you looking for a "bit of earth" for your own garden.

Prepared by:

Sandra Ferguson, Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center,

Sandra.Ferguson@beaufort.k12.sc.us

Freedom Song: The Story of Henry “Box” Brown

Sally M. Walker

Harper, 2012

35 pages

SUMMARY:

Henry Brown copes with slavery by singing, but after his wife and children are sold away he is left with only his freedom song, which gives him strength when friends put him in a box and mail him to a free state.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Almost to Freedom, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Aunt Harriet and the Underground Railroad, Faith Ringgold

The Drinking Gourd: a Story of the Underground Railroad, F. N. Monio

The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom, Emily Arnold McCully

Follow the Drinking Gourd, Jeanette Winter

Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman, Alan Schroeder

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom, Carole Boston Weatherford

Night Boat to Freedom, Margot Theis Raven

Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom, Bettye Stroud

Show Way, Jacqueline Woodson

Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt, Deborah Hopkinson

Under the Quilt of Night, Deborah Hopkinson

WEBSITES:

Ducksters: Underground Railroad

http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_war/underground_railroad.php

Kids learn about the Underground Railroad.

Eduplace: Underground Railroad Map

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/socsci/books/applications/imaps/maps/g5s_u6/

Learn about major routes used by people on the Underground Railroad.

Kids Discover: Underground Railroad

<http://www.kidsdiscover.com/shop/issues/underground-railroad-for-kids/>

The Underground Railroad comes alive in this issue, which traces the many routes slaves took and the obstacles they faced.

National Geographic: Underground Railroad

http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/multimedia/interactive/the-underground-railroad/?ar_a=1

You are a slave in Maryland in the 1800s. Can you escape? Learn what challenges slaves faced in National Geographic's Underground Railroad adventure.

Scholastic: Underground Railroad

http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/underground_railroad/

Follow a runaway slave to freedom along the Underground Railroad in 1860.

Social Studies for Kids: Underground Railroad

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/subjects/undergroundrailroad.htm>

Numerous primary sources are available on this site.

BOOKTALK:

When his wife and children are sold away, an enslaved man devises an extraordinary means of escape to the North and succeeds. Henry Brown worked in a tobacco factory in Richmond, Virginia. With the help of abolitionist friends, he built a box barely big enough for his large frame and mailed himself to Philadelphia and "freedom-land." This is an excellent, accessible account of the harshness of slavery. An excerpted letter written by the recipient of Henry "Box" Brown is included. The desire to live free is powerful, and this story celebrates one man's amazing journey to achieve that end.

Prepared by:

Cathy Poole, Lesslie Elementary School, CPoole@rhmail.org